

This Old House

TOP 100!

Best new
gifts &
product
picks

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Add charm to every room

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11 TABLETOP LOOKS

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Gee-whiz
gadgets to
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smarter!
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EASY
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FOR SPOTS,
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27 simple spruce-ups
to do in a day p. 90

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11

NOVEMBER 2014
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TOP 100 LIST



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idea file

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 Found in a single or two-page work, if
 not a separate chapter.

546 before + after: bath

Are proposed bedrooms
now becoming changed for
larger master baths?

45 high-tech
waste to make.

entertaining easier
Interest on debit and
app-controlled games that
will help you learn with con-
fidence and interaction.

5.3 Photoshop redo

Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

82 all the comforts
of home

Tissue, a variation of an HPAC, has a different structure than the HPAC and is not a true HPAC.

exists in the house!

QUEST IN THE MOMENT
 Character: what feeling
 "I'll tell you one more thing"

96 half-boths
full of style

I put all wood trunks up top designed it a part a stylized tree from a computer program.



Class: Radiography: ARTS 3059 (114 11)
 Schedule: M/W/F 9:00-11:00





Watch videos and see more photos! Browse the first, the finale, and other select photos. Available at theoldhouse.com/tablet and on iTunes.



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Deck Your Halls with Holiday Must-Haves

Shop editors' picks from the pages of *This Old House*



- A 3-Light Hanging Lantern by Troy L. Jensen
- B Essential Candle Holder (Set of 3) by West
- C Bahia II Desert Plates (Set of 4) by Pottery
- D Tabletop Tree by Pottery
- E Silk-Lined Pillow by Vandebloom
- F Embroidered Pillow by West
- G Circa Lanes Pillow by Pottery



Letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

Fact is, we're all getting smarter

I once wand'ered. A dandy, really. Which you can plainly see in the little photo on the iPad I'm holding over there. Look close, I sure have the fact on.

Actually, I should be a little bit clever about this. I wasn't broadly dumb, the opinion of most of my family aside, but dumb about smart. Smart stuff, that is, dandy electronics, the hardware and software combination some collectively call the Internet of Things but that I better know as, uh, gizmos.

Having spent some time fiddling with a few of the party-friendly gadgets for the special Smart Home section you'll find on page 45, I've now worn, tripped over—*at least* when it comes to using the Perfect Drink smart-scale cocktail machine. Now, the rubber-minded among you might wonder if such a gadget is necessary when a recipe book and a 99-cent shot glass accomplish the same thing. Well, all I can say is, there was a time when we never used to need the microwave, but just try to find a remodel in *TOH* that doesn't feature one. Not that you'll need the microwave since you get your hands on a Wi-Fi-ready GE Profile Convection Oven that you can control via your smartphone. That's an oven too, along with other clever pieces of equipment.

Perhaps just slightly less gaudy, but no less interesting or useful, is our annual list of what we consider to be the year's best new home products, the *TOH* Top 100, on page 65. Our staff examined thousands of entries to come up with this list. We think it's a good one, stacked with money-savers and upgrades, problem solvers and products that beautify. Everything a better homeowner could possibly need (except the Perfect Drink smart-scale cocktail machine).

In either case, we're making it all available to you. We're testing a new shopping service in this issue. If you have the *Blipper* app on your smartphone or tablet, you can scan any one of the Smart Home or Top 100 pages and, with a couple of screen taps, buy any of the products you see via our partner ShopAdvisor. If you don't have the app, it's free and easy enough to download, so give it a shot. E-mail me to let me know if you find it useful. If you do, we'll offer the opportunity on more pages in future issues, and there'll be no more having to hunt down a product you see between those covers, per blip and have it delivered to your door. Nothing dandy about that.

Scott O'Connell, Editor
scott@thisoldhouse.com



Not all smart gizmos are making household entries



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Reader mail



AS CONFUSING as it can be for people to select paint, they sure have opinions about it, as we saw from readers' tips and comments in response to our September issue. And take a look at a reader project that put a heavyweight twist on our butcher-block island how-to.

Pick your piece wisely

Re "Painted Pizzeria" (September 2014), we carried a distressed paint finish. I thought that someone wanting to paint a piece of old furniture did a little research beforehand into the history and value of the piece. Antiques are not "furniture" in the sense of old brushstrokes, and out the finish, and paint over the unwanted colors. These patches add time and expense to any job.

—STEVINA, JUDGE ROYALTON, VT

A paint pro's plan

It's great that homeowners sample colors in the rooms they want painted, but keep in mind that how you do it impacts

the prep work painters should do for the final job. It's best to get samples on big sheets of paper so you can move the color from place to place in the room. Clients often use a brush to paint big patches on the wall. Part of any prep as a contractor is to smooth out old brushstrokes, sand out the finish, and prime over the unwanted colors. These patches add time and expense to any job.

—STACY KROGER, CHILDETHAM, VA

Lighter underfoot finishes

I'm an avid TGTV reader, but I take exception to the designer's advice about painting floors in dark colors ("11 of Your Most Crazy Making Paint-Color Questions Answered" September 2014).



Island remix

KATY TOMLER, RALEIGH, NC

I'dy husband and I saw your online how-to on using a rope to build a butcher-block island and am busy carving out time. We topped it with a \$5 piece of granite picked up at a yard sale and used paper that fit within the existing holes. We are loving the finished product. (Thanks for the inspiration!) (Find the how-to at dipdip.com/cozirecipes.)



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Reader mail

I once had a black printed floor. Every day, and perhaps dozens of I later moved to a house in which some of the oak floors scratched, and the best and most economical solution was to paint them. Where has stood up well for 23 years.

—JACK BERRY, CALIFORNIA, CA

Upcycling tips for leftovers

I read your advice in Ask This Old House about recycling old paint in the September 2014 issue and wanted to share a tip of my own. I decided to donate my garage and do something about all the old latex paint I had collected over the years. So I used it to brighten the inside of my garage. Partial cans of paint? You can make each wall a different color, or do a wall half-and-half, or give it a racing stripe. Avoid discarding old paint at a landfill and enjoy your "green" garage!

—JENNIFER DOMAN, PARKINGTON, UTAH

My tip for getting rid of leftover paint? I put a "curb alert" message under "Free" on Craigslist. Artists use it for murals, face painters, wedding ceremonies, landscaping more and use it as practice. My paint is gone in an hour, and I thought that someone is saving!

—LYNN DILLIO, MANHATTAN, NY

Crazy for color

A lot of readers suggested the July 2014 issue was your best ever. I, however, am most impressed with your September 2014 issue. It is packed to the gills with paint-color tips and how-tos and gorgeous photos. Along with the photos, the paint-drop color chips are extremely helpful, such a thoughtful touch! Thank you for this lovely, comfy, homey "Fresh Color Ideas" issue. I will keep—and feel through—this one for a long, long time.

—RETTY HORNER, SAN JOSE, CALIF.

HOW TO REACH THE EDITORS

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Checklist

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014

Easy ways to improve your home right now

Preserve perishable decorations

Natural holiday trimmings have an expiration date, but there are ways to prolong their life. Spray cut foliage with an anti-desiccant. Look for ones made from evergreen pine-tree resin, such as Wilt Stop, and reapply it once more during winter. Give garlands and berry garlands a coat of clear spray shellac, but keep these decorations indoors—they could be harmful to wildlife if eaten.



November 15 is Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day

You'll need no extra space for the turkey, but do a deep clean. Give the fridge a top-to-bottom deep cleaning. With the refrigerator unplugged, remove the bottom grille and deep clean with soap and water. Use a mild toothbrush and a mild bleach solution to scrub the rubber door gasket, often a hot spot for mold. Remove dust and oil from the condenser coils with a refrigerator coil brush, then vacuum with a brush attachment.



Climb with caution
Between reroofing roofs for winter and decorating for the holidays, ladder-related injuries spike at this time of year.

To avoid accidents, place straight or extension ladders 3 feet from the surface they rest against for every 4 feet of ladder height. Maintain three points of contact with the ladder at all times—either one foot and two hands or two feet and one hand.

Disinfect bird feeders

Even in winter, outdoor feeders can harbor mold and bacteria, putting birds at risk of contracting diseases. To avoid seed contamination, wear rubber



gloves, scrub the feeder inside and out with hot, soapy water and a stiff brush. Soak for 10 to 15 minutes in a 10 percent bleach solution. Let dry before refilling. Shake up any debris below.



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Melissa Stewart-Loring "I Got It! Countertop" in Studio City by L&L Kitchens/Melissa

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A beautiful garden doesn't just improve the look of your home—the action of gardening can actually help you relax.



CROWN JEWEL

Easy-to-install crown molding is a budget-friendly way to turn an ordinary room into a truly elegant space.



FAN FAVORITE

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home solutions Edited by Michelle Brunner

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Homes for the holidays

Looking for a fresh way to amp up the festive factor? House-shaped luminaires will set a merry mood on bookshelves, tabletops, mantels, and more. Luckily, it doesn't take a village to make them so multiplex. Using rubber feet from the home center (817 for a 24-by-36-inch sheet), we made one continuous cut to form the walls—with two peaks for the gables—and bent the metal to make corners. The roof is one rectangular piece folded in half; clear fishing wire threaded through the openings closes up the side and secures the top. Perched with simple string lights, they'll glow on and on.

A coat of white faux snow (see page 114) makes them a real standout.



Fast first aid for holiday messes

A house full of people and so much to get stained or mucked. Raid the pantry or medicine cabinet for quick-fix remedies that will have you back to your guests in no time. —JENNIFER DUNN



Red wine on tablecloth

Chased with a splash of white wine while it's still damp to help neutralize the stain. Then cover with baking soda and let sit for 5 minutes to absorb the remaining liquid. Rinse over the sink with boiling water.



Only spill on carpet

Blot spots left by spilled dressing or juice with drawing cream, working it inward with a clean rag or an old toothbrush to help absorb the grease. Greasey rub with a soft damp cloth.



Scuffs on hardwood floors

Scrub em out with a little elbow (yes, whitening toothpaste and an old toothbrush—the combo works) and a gentle abrasive. Wipe up the paste with a damp cloth, then buff the floor back into its original luster with a dry cloth.



Greasy finger marks on upholstery

Scrub the spots with cornstarch to help absorb the grease and lift the stain from the fabric. Leave on for a few minutes, then vacuum it up. Repeat as needed.



Mystery mark

Your guests left a stain on carpeting or upholstery but you're not sure what it is? Dip on a teaspoon of 3 percent hydrogen peroxide mixed with a little cream of tartar or white (non-whitening) toothpaste and rub with a soft cloth.

On-the-spot fixes for ice dams

Roofs may look pretty during winter months, but they can spell trouble. That's because the same conditions that allow ice to form—snow covered roofs and freezing temperatures—may also lead to ice dams. When snow melts on unheated portions of your roof and the water flows down to unheated eaves, it can refreeze, creating thick ridges of solid ice, or dams. That can lead to gutters, frozen shingles, and a major leak to your inside. The result is an icy soggy situation that's not hard to believe. Not to mention mold and mildew. If you're an ice flow overlord, here are three ways to tackle it right away—*now*, not later.

► TURN ON A FAN If water is leaking into your house, set up a box fan on an unheated attic, set it on high, and point it at the source of the leak. Blowing on where the ice dams are forming will cause it to refreeze without thawing. Leave the fan on the attic and switch it off whenever temperatures fall below freezing.

► USE A SNOW BLOWER While using this long-handled tool is generally a preventive measure, it can also be helpful if a dam has formed. Standing safely on the ground, sweep excess snow off your roof to keep the problem from escalating.

► MAKE A MELTING SOCK Unlike traditional rock salt, calcium chloride melt won't damage your roof or any plants below it. Fill an ice melting salt sock (\$33, amazon.com) with calcium chloride pellets and lay it over the dam to melt the ice.



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Cheery fireplace for \$795

A dingy hearth wall gets a new look with fresh finishes and light, bright storage



BEFORE

BEFORE The fireplace's old south-of-the-border look dominated the room, where the only display space was the mantel shelf.

AFTER A new fireplace surround, hearth, and mantel lend the space a lighter, brighter look. Built-in shelves and open cabinets on either side provide both open and closed storage.

DATED FINISHES CAN really bring down a room. At Erin and Kurt Eastman's 1980s ranch house, in Tempe, Ariz., the gas fireplace in the family room was such an eyesore that the couple and their three kids couldn't bear to spend time in the space and gathered in the basement instead. Finally, after eight years, Erin decided enough was enough. So she and Kurt yanked out the faux stone and dark hearth tile, replacing them with new drywall above stacked stone veneer and large slabs of pale gray stone on the raised hearth. Rather than replace the brass doors on the opening, Erin spray-painted the trim black to make them disappear. Kurt installed secondhand cabinets on both sides of the fireplace to house puzzles and games, open shelves above leave room for the family TV, photos, and artwork. The room's shelf came from Erin's woodworker brother-in-law, who knocked off a prototype version she had seen—for a fraction of the cost. The finishing touch: a flea-market-divined light window turned frame to hold portraits of the kids. "Before, I would look at that fireplace thinking, 'I can't stand to do this,'" Erin says. "Now we love to hang out here as a family." —aerisak.com

THE PROJECT TALLY

Tore out the old faux stone veneer and hearth tile	\$0
Installed new drywall, stone veneer, and stone slabs	\$500
Painted the room a soft green	\$30
Made over the brass fireplace doors with heat-resistant spray paint	\$5
Built in secondhand cabinets capped with an old tablecloth	\$0
Added open shelves and crown molding	\$100
Replaced a designer mantel with black lumber and molding, using a flea-market window frame for family photos	\$60

TOTAL **\$795**

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Handmade holidays

This year, don't buy it—DIY it! Make like Santa's elves and hit the workshop to craft one-of-a-kind gifts for the special people in your life. Here, four creative ideas to get you started

BY MICHELLE KILPATRICK
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JORDEN GILLEN

1

tiered serving tray

Nobody needs to know you didn't sweat over a lathe to make this graceful oak server. Just pick up turned furniture legs at the home center. A stain made from white vinegar and rusted steel wool, plus a wax finish, lends it rustic charm. Here's how it comes together

step-by-step



1. MAKE THE TRAYS
Cut 8-, 10-, and 12 1/2-inch squares from a 1 1/2-inch oak board. Drill 1/8-inch holes through the center of each tray, and glue inserted bars to the edges.



2. ADD THE FEET
Cut small squares of oak for feet. Apply a dab of superglue to the bottom corners of the base tray and glue the feet in place.



3. FINISH THE SUPPORTS
Grip the bottom part and drill a 1/2-inch hole into its top. Do the same to the middle post.



4. INSERT SCREWS
Unscrew the riveted bolts from the middle and top posts, and replace them with 1/4-inch dowels across.



5. ASSEMBLE THE SERVER
Starting at the top, screw the posts together, cupling the trays between them. Fasten the base with a washer and nut. Stain and finish.



For complete step-by-step instructions and videos for all the projects in this story, go to thisoldhouse.com/DIYgifts

PHOTOS: SHUTTERSTOCK/ALAMY (TOP); GETTY IMAGES (TOP RIGHT)

25

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2 bottle-vase holder

Presenting flowers may be somewhat predictable, but not when they come in this tabletop display piece. All it takes is a simple framework made from stock oak and molding. Plug the "vases" from the recycling bin or buy new ones with a shape you like. Ours look like scaled-down milk bottles, bringing a touch of old-timey character to the table.

step-by-step



1. MEASURE THE TOP
Evenly space bottles on a 1-4 oak board to define its lengthwise limits and determine where to cut for length. Mark the center of each section.



2. MAKE THE HOLES
If your drill with a hole sawsaw slightly larger than the width of the bottles, bore holes through the top centering the drill over the marks. If necessary, widen the underside of the holes with a rasp.



3. CUT THE SIDES
Use a hand saw to cut two pieces of molding to the width of the top to create the sides.



4. ATTACH THE SIDES
Cut the 1-4 base 2 in. inches longer (or twice the thickness of your molding) than the top. Glue and clamp the sides to the base. Fasten with iron hex screws. Glue reinforced molding around the base.



5. GLUE THE TOP
Position the top between the sides and reinforce with glue. Clamp until dry. Finish with stain. Slip in the bottles.



3 cutting board

Treat the chef on your list to butcher block done better. A nice thick chunk makes a hard-wearing prep surface, and a few strokes of a jigsaw transform it into a unique conversation piece. Find the template for this and other house shapes at thickhouse.com/DIYgifts.

TIP We used IKEA's unfinished Numeric butcher block for this project. At just \$829, the 2-by-6-foot piece of countertop yields at least five nice-size boards.

step-by-step



1. POSITION THE TEMPLATE
With a multi-usable glue stick, adhere the cut-out template to the butcher block.



2. MAKE LARGE CUTS
Use a jigsaw to follow the template's outline, stopping short of the corners.



3. TRIM THE CORNERS
Use a hand plane to pull sawed-off ends out, rounding the corners. Clean up rough cut edges with a hand sandpaper.



4. FINISH IT
Sand the board with 120-grit sandpaper. Coat with four coats of butcher block conditioner (we used Minwax's Natural).



4 six-pack carrier

BYOB gets a style upgrade with this classic caddy, modeled on an old-fashioned tool box. It securely holds half a dozen beer or soda bottles, and its dowel handle is a pleasure to grab and go. The vintage-looking bottle opener (\$6, restaurantsupply.com) screwed to the side will really get the party started.

step-by-step



1. MEASURE THE SIDES
Mark 1 1/2 inches in from each side at the top of a 5-inch-wide pineboard. Draw a line from each mark to the midpoint of each side of the board.



2. CUT THE SIDES
Using a jigsaw, cut along the lines to form the tapered sides of the carrier.



3. MAKE THE HANDLE OPENING
Using a 3/4-inch paddle bit, drill a hole 1 1/2 inches down and into the middle of each side for the dowel handle.



4. CUT THE BOTTOM AND ATTACH THE SIDES
Cut a 5-inch-wide board to 7 1/2 inches for the base. Attach the sides to the ends of the base with 1 1/4-inch countersink screws.



5. ADD THE SIDE RAILS AND HANDLE
Drill 1/8-inch pilot holes into each rail, then attach to the sides with 1-inch-brass-head screws. Glue the handle in place and sand (we used milk paint and antiquing wax). Attach the bottle opener.



LEARN TO MAKE COPPER TREE ORNAMENTS
For step-by-step instructions for this bonus project, get your tablet edition at thisoldhouse.com/tablet.

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JULES COLLECTION
Quilt shown shown as 9
combined to 6 beds
and shown as 9

THE
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Farmhouse revival

Two DIY owners devise a recipe that's one part modern function and two parts colonial charm BY DRUGGALY BULLOCK • PHOTOGRAPH BY JON CHURCH



BEFORE

BEFORE Previous owner lowered the ceiling to create space and finished it with pink faux beams.

AFTER The new owners pulled the first floor exposing the original beams and moved the kitchen into its period style.

A TIGHT BUDGET CAN SLOW DOWN a redo, but paying can pay off in more ways than one. "I'm glad we waited," says Bangor Clark of the paint scheme he and partner Daniel Blake ultimately chose for their 18th-century house, in Welden, Vermont. He could have easily been referring to every aspect of the project, from devising a better layout to finding the right appliances. During development, the Differs uncovered the first floor's original ceiling beams and granite hearth. Then, during two long years of prepping meals on plywood-topped workbenches, they spaced out expenditures while working alongside men to replace pipes and wiring, remove a set of stairs, shift the cook space's location, and add a fireplace and chimney. All the while, they were digging into the history of colonial-era benches and seeking for ways to achieve an elegant period look. A friend with carpentry skills donated weekends to help build and install wainscoting, paneling, and a mantel, while Daniel, the head chef, had time to find the perfect range, and Bangor to score an apron sink on eBay. As for paint choices, they went from bright colonial colors to soft neutrals. Given their busy jobs in fiction and all that work on the house, says Bangor, "we needed something comfy and calm."

PHOTOGRAPH BY JON CHURCH



CHURCH ON BEAMS: JON CHURCH

**before + after:
kitchen**



After four months, the kitchen was fully renovated, and the bridge and link were added to the new design.

The homeowners cataloged vintage bric-a-brac and used a local materials firm there to create a colonial-style fireplace.

The storage-packed peninsula allows the cook to take charge of prep and cleanup while overlooking with guests.

Shirley Farrow Moore



before

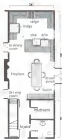
The 280-square-foot space was poorly organized and lacked an eating area.



after

The kitchen shifted position, gaining 116 square feet and making room for an eating area.

- 1) Demolished walls, including a former bath, laundry, and dining room closet.
- 2) Added a fireplace and chimney in the spot where the 18th-century fireplace once stood.
- 3) Demolished the stairs to the second floor and moved the steps to the basement, making it easier to reach the kitchen.



- 4) Moved the range to an exterior wall, adding extra ventilation. The fridge and the sink are still close, away from the range.
- 5) Removed the island in favor of a peninsula that delineates the work zone.
- 6) Swapped out a window and added a door for extra ventilation. The new window is a French door with shutters.
- 7) Erected a wall that holds a bread-feeding hatch near the table, a new mudroom and powder room, and the other side.

Key to the new layout was placing the bridge and Faber near the dining room and out of the cooking trap. Designer: Kim Jones



Custom cabinets hold cookbooks while creating a new glazing case. The cabinets were inspired by vintage kitchenware and built of distressed wood. Designer: Kim Jones

SOAPSTONE COUNTERS
To find out more, visit our website at www.kimjones.com or call us at 800-451-2354.

Moved and improved

An awkward bedroom nook becomes a lavish, light-filled master bath

BY NINA MALKIN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE BRADFORD



BEFORE: The narrow end of the long bedroom put the dresser miles from the closet at the opposite end. **AFTER:** Relocating the bath to the long windowed space allowed this nearly double in size. Custom-ventured miller marble surfaces, and a generous shower create a feeling of luxury. *Coloring future: Robert Abbey*

REMODELING IS OFTEN a matter of tough trade-offs. What will you sacrifice to get what you really need? But not far from Don and Gail Seniors, owners of a cozy 1960s apt-level in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. They eagerly ceded 76 square feet of their bedroom so that they could scrap their cramped bath in favor of building a new one nearly twice its size. "The old shower was so tiny you could barely turn around in it, and we had no storage—our toiletries cluttered up the sink counters," says Don. The existing bath and walk-in closet were also inconveniently located at opposite ends of the bedroom. Privacy was a problem too, since the bath and bedroom doors led directly out into the hallway, which is open to the floor below. The Seniors also covet a certain something special: "Glamour and romance," says Gail. Enter designer Laura Stern, who rearranged the suit's floor plan to make better use of the space. The new bath claimed an awkward bay-windowed area of the bedroom, the closet filled the void of the former bath. The bedroom shifted to annex the area where the closet had been. Now the spa-like shower takes advantage of the window bay's broad beach. Marble surfaces add elegance; heated floors are another luxe touch. Says Gail, "We've gone from asking ourselves, 'Why did we buy this place?' to falling in love with it all over again."

The window bay is lined with marble to be water-tight. Privacy film with a brushed look shields bathers from view while allowing light to stream in. *Woodwork: Arco. Tap: The Solitaires*



Separate makeup vanity offers an expansive view of the room. Frameless medicine cabinets and glass-enclosed wall panels create an expansive reflective surface. *Fronts: Brian Baker*

Mounting screws directly on the mirrored wall is a hefty duty double's weight in the room. *Sources: Reinhardt Hardware*



before

An oversized tub was rarely used, and the separate shower was way too small.



after

The relocated bathroom is bigger and more functional.

- 1) Put the shower in the window bay to take advantage of the light and wide beach area. Placed the tub in an alcove nearby.
- 2) Built a custom linear floor both open and closed storage.
- 3) Erected a wall to partition off the 76-square-foot alcove from the bedroom.



- 4) Installed the bath at the opposite end of the wall, since the walk-in wardrobe will be moved. Put in open-air wardrobes to maximize the remaining space.
- 5) Relocated the closet to the old bath space. The former sink wall was moved 12 inches to better ventilate the kitchen below.
- 6) Created new entrance for a more cohesive private maple suite that can be closed off with a pocket door.

Festive farmhouse dining room

Natural elements, pale neutrals, and pieces with patina capture the warmth of the holidays. BY NATALIE O'SHEA-ROSS

LONG BEFORE HOLIDAY DECORATIONS became mass-produced, electric fireplaces, people decked their halls with the eye-catching offerings of the *ferme-ry, belly, and fragrant pine*. "Showcasing a room indoors was a symbol of life in the dead of winter," says Colonial Williamsburg's Laura Viscione. It's a traditional approach that can still look right at home today. Take this dining room, where leafy greenery, pinecones, and bird-husk wreaths mingle with rustic furniture finds, handmade pottery, and soft ivory accents. Staking glassware and pale china plates help keep the mood light, as do candles twinkling from tabletop to mantelshelf in chandeliers. Looking to bring the same homey feel to your own seasonal celebration? Read on.



step-back hutch
Antique made in Italy
and finished with grey
paint. This cupboard
has three glass-front
cabinets to show off
treasures. From \$1,200,
dulchordell.com

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cushions**
Bark-covered
cushions filled with
cattails lean up the
table. \$4.99 each,
saw-on-crafts.com

bird-print mugs
Ostrich-like porcelains
own no double duty as
decor when arranged
on shelves. \$6.99 each,
lulujoia

**handmade
pitcher**
Therapy is a easier potter
in Vermont using local
clay. This pitcher has a
hand-painted glaze that gives
it a well-loved look. \$100,
benningtopotters.com



glass decanters
Nothing says welcome
like a formal worthy
corker on display. From
\$12 to \$15 and \$20,
candleandhoney.com



candle chandelier
Cast a flickering glow over the party
with this hanging votive holder. Tied
with linen. \$36, saw-on-crafts.com.
From \$6.99, jewelgarden.com



farm table
A rustic step-back
design gives this top
a weathered look.
White-painted turned
legs stress the piece
up. \$450, jay.com



vintage seating
A chair that's built to
last is a perfect place to
hold a formal dinner.
Try a girl's package
from the 1940s and 1950s.
Candor Vintage
Living. We found this
one on Craigslist for \$75.



table setting
A library of dinner plates
plus a variety of bowls,
platters, and more. Add a
few more. \$40 for a set of four pieces.
Charming. \$40 for a set of four pieces.
Charming. \$40 for a set of four pieces.
Charming. \$40 for a set of four pieces.

**DIY
votive holders**
Here's a simple way to "heat" the
holidays: Use tin cans to make a
variety of the perfect candle
holders. We used industrial-strength
sawing saws to cut the sides. Then taped
a printed clipart heart over the cut and
hammered holes through with a finishing nail.



For people with a higher risk of stroke due to
Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) not caused by a heart valve problem

I was taking warfarin. But ELIQUIS was a better find.

I TAKE ELIQUIS® (apixaban) FOR 3 GOOD REASONS:

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- 2 ELIQUIS had less major bleeding than warfarin.
- 3 Unlike warfarin, there's no routine blood testing.

ELIQUIS and other blood thinners increase the risk of bleeding which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death.

Ask your doctor if ELIQUIS is right for you.

ELIQUIS® (apixaban) is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation, a type of irregular heartbeat, not caused by a heart valve problem.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

• Do not stop taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke. ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

• ELIQUIS can cause bleeding, which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death.

• You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, NSAIDs, warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, SSRIs or SNRIs, and other blood thinners. Tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take. While taking ELIQUIS, you may bruise more easily and it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop.

• Get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:

- unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as unusual bleeding from the gums; nosebleeds that happen often, or menstrual or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal.
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control.
- red, pink, or brown urine; red or black stools (looks like tar).
- coughing up or vomiting blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds.
- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain; headaches, feeling dizzy or weak.

• ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valves.

• Spinal or epidural blood clots (hematomas). People who take ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis).

This risk is higher if, an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicines, you take NSAIDs or blood thinners, you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness, or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.

• Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you have kidney or liver problems, any other medical condition, or ever had bleeding problems. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed.

• Do not take ELIQUIS if you currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding or have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. A reaction to ELIQUIS can cause hives, rash, itching, and possibly trouble breathing. Get medical help right away if you have sudden chest pain or chest tightness, have sudden swelling of your face or tongue, have trouble breathing, wheezing, or feeling dizzy or faint.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see additional important product information on the adjacent page.

Individual results may vary.

Visit ELIQUIS.COM
or call 1-855-ELIQUIS

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Eliquis.
apixaban tablets 500 mg

IMPORTANT FACTS about ELIQUIS® (apixaban) tablets

The information below does not take the place of talking with your healthcare professional. Only your healthcare professional knows the special and how ELIQUIS may be best for you. Tell your healthcare professional if you have any questions about ELIQUIS (apixaban) tablets.

What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

For people taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation, Do not stop taking ELIQUIS without talking to your doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke. ELIQUIS may need to be stopped prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

ELIQUIS can cause bleeding which can be serious, and rarely this can lead to death. This is because ELIQUIS is a blood thinner medicine that makes blood clotting.

You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and also other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), and other medicines to help prevent or treat blood clots.

Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines. Ask your doctor if you are not sure if your medicine is on this list above.

While taking ELIQUIS:

- you may bruise more easily
- it may take longer than usual for your bleeding to stop

Call your doctor if you need help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding when taking ELIQUIS:

- unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time such as:
- unusual bleeding from the gums
- repeatedly that happen often

- unusual bleeding or bleeding that is heavier than normal
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- red urine or brown urine
- red or black stools (like blood in stool)
- cough up blood or blood clots
- vomit blood or your vomit looks like coffee grounds
- unexpected pain, swelling or joint pain
- headaches, lightheadedness or dizziness

ELIQUIS (apixaban) is not for patients with artificial heart valves.

Not for use if you have a history of bleeding (hemorrhage). People who take a blood thinner medicine (anticoagulant), like ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural areas, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of bleeding. A blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis) your arms and legs, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of bleeding. A blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis) your arms and legs, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of bleeding. A blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis) your arms and legs, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of bleeding.

- a thin tube placed in your back to deliver your spinal medicine
- you take NSAIDs or a medicine to prevent blood clots (aspirin)
- you have a history of difficult or abnormal epidural or spinal punctures
- you have a history of problems with your spine or have had surgery on your spine

If you take ELIQUIS and receive spinal anesthesia or have a spinal puncture, your doctor should watch you closely for symptoms of spinal or epidural blood clots, or bleeding. Tell your doctor right away if you have a tingling, numbness, or muscle weakness noticeable in your legs and feet.

What is ELIQUIS?

ELIQUIS is an oral medicine used to:

- reduce the risk of forming a blood clot in the legs and lungs of people who have just had hip or knee replacement surgery
- It is not known if ELIQUIS is safe and effective in children
- Who should not take ELIQUIS (apixaban)?
- Do not take ELIQUIS if you:
- currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding
- have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. Ask your doctor if you are not sure

What should I tell my doctor before taking ELIQUIS?

- Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you:
- have bleeding or liver problems
- have any other medical condition
- have ever had bleeding problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ELIQUIS will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if ELIQUIS passes into your breast milk, how and your doctor should decide if you should take ELIQUIS or breastfeed. You should not do both.

Tell all of your doctors and dentists that you are taking ELIQUIS. They should talk to the doctor who prescribed ELIQUIS for you, before you have any surgery, medical or dental procedure.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over the counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some of these medicines may affect the way ELIQUIS works. Certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding or stroke when taken with ELIQUIS.

How should I take ELIQUIS?

Take ELIQUIS exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Take ELIQUIS twice every day with or without food, and do not change your dose or stop taking it until your doctor tells you to. If you miss a dose of ELIQUIS, take it as soon as you remember and do

not take more than one dose at the same time. Do not stop taking ELIQUIS (apixaban) until your prescription before you can stop. When leaving the hospital, follow the hip or knee replacement, be sure that you will have ELIQUIS available to avoid missing any doses. If you are taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation, stopping ELIQUIS may increase your risk of having a stroke.

What are the possible side effects of ELIQUIS?

See "What I should know about ELIQUIS" above.

- ELIQUIS can cause a skin rash or severe allergic reaction. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
- chest pain or tightness
- swelling of your face or tongue
- trouble breathing or wheezing
- feeling dizzy or faint

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of ELIQUIS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

This is a brief summary of the most important information about ELIQUIS. For more information, talk with your doctor or pharmacist, call 1-855-ELIQUIS (1-855-354-2849) or go to www.ELIQUIS.com.

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Rx ONLY

Create a built-in look

Smart use of color unifies a simple countertop and separate bench

BY DEBORAH HALLUM

WE ALL KNOW that color can look cheap, but we've all figured out when we see a stunning example of the principle at work. Consider this entry area cabinet before its paint makeover, which is a color-correct, unfinished look. Featuring the entire wall a single, dramatic shade like the pieces together and yielded a more finished space. Two elegant surroundings, which help enrich the scheme.

"The plan is dark enough to not fight with the green," says Andrea Manno, a design expert at Benjamin Moore, "while the creamy white on the trim brings out the millwork details and complements the classic architecture." Flaring support rolls are new vinyl stained flooring and glass, green, and ivory undertones in the rug, cushions, and wall art. The result: A once bland space is now a cohesive entry area focal point.

IN FOR A GREEN-UPPER CASE with books above a bench and a wooden stool. BY THE WAY: Benjamin Moore's Heritage White. Result: A dark shade like the pieces together and yielded a more finished space.

Benjamin Moore's Heritage White. Result: A dark shade like the pieces together and yielded a more finished space.



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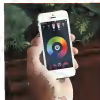
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LUTRON

LOVE A HOLIDAY GET-TOGETHER?

Sure—especially when someone else is hosting. Throwing your own shindig this time of year can be about as much fun as a stocking full of coal, what with all the other stress of the season. But a slew of new Jetsons-worthy gadgets are on the way to help. Some are a major convenience, some are really cool, and a few are a little outlandish. (Hey, every invite list needs a wild card or two, right?) Across the board, though, the promise they hold is pretty sweet: No burned turkey. No miscalculated cocktails. No overheated atmosphere. No unfettering glow. To show you how new Internet-enabled and app-controlled devices can put the “wow!” back in hosting, The Old House staffers decided to throw a party of their own. The result: less plug, more play.

GET THIS PARTY STARTED

How to keep your cool while whipping up a feast? It's simple when your kitchen is programmed to make fête prep a snap.



1. **Optimize your coffee order.** A hot pot of joe is sure to be the perfect way to ease into party prep. Forget to switch it on before heading out to work the day? Set the Nivola-enabled Mr. Coffee Smart Coffee Maker using the smartphone app, and the brew will be ready when you walk in the door. \$150, nivolacoffee.com
2. **Map the road home.** You've got a lot to do—load, wash, prep, etc.—but not the list. The iRobot Roomba 430 robot vacuum keeps you up-to-date on your home's status, like when it's time to vacuum. And it can even be programmed to vacuum when you're out. \$499, irobot.com
3. **Take culinary inventory.** Avoiding burner flammability means having all recipe ingredients on hand and at their peak. The LG Smart ThinQ fridge has a 36-in.-wide freshness tracker LCD screen that gives at-a-glance info on what's inside—and what's on the way out. \$3,144, amazon.com



15. Craft cocktail quicker
Work elegantly making drinks with the Heated Drink smart scale. An app provides an experienced cocktail recipe while the scale weighs each

ingredient precisely. \$50. lutron.com

16. Make like a chocolateier
First, play the battery-powered TheriBridge in the most decadent dessert concept known to man: The Chocolate

Delectables on a self-heating machine. \$139. lutron.com

17. Light the way
You've got your hands full with

guests? Fortunately, the Duo Bluetooth uses Bluetooth to track your phone as you move through the house, turning lights on or off as you go from room to room. No Wi-Fi required. \$90. lutron.com

18. Enjoy some privacy
Crank up with the blinds down using Lutron's SmartTiltUp and battery-powered automated

SmartWindow shades. Use the ClearPhone app to tilt (and open) the window, crank and operate any lights or thermostats. \$139 for a Caseta dimmer. From \$299 per shade. lutron.com

19. Keep the carpet clean
Swish laundry by clearing a parking hand compartment. The LG HomeBot Squirt Robot Vacuum Cleaner will quickly go about its business of picking up stray

chip shards and popcorn. lutron.com

20. Superstar the game board!
Who wants to keep track of all these little pieces and pieces?

Lutron's Home 2.0. lutron.com

21. In the game board!
Lutron's Home 2.0. lutron.com

22. Direct your drink
No 22 is a good thing on this list. lutron.com

23. Before the party
When the last guest has (finally) gone, find out the best of the best. lutron.com

24. The last guest has (finally) gone
Find out the best of the best. lutron.com

Coming home

Turn on entryway lights from the safety of your car and never enter a dark home again.



At home

Dim lights for reading and turn lights off before you fall asleep.



While you're away

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Find out where to buy at www.ChooseCaseta.com.

FOUR QUESTIONS FOR

Kevin O'Connor

Host of *This Old House* since 2003

This *Old House* is celebrating its 50th season on PBS this year. To what do you attribute its long-running success? Styles change, fads come and go, and on television these days instead, over the top remodels seem to be all the rage. This *Old House* is the real deal. Our guys are craftsmen first, and they've practiced their trades for a lifetime. So while others television editors makeovers, quick house tips, and yard crashes. This *Old House* offers honest, practical advice from people you can trust—and there will always be a demand for that.

What personal thing do you bring to the role of host of *This Old House*? Curiosity and, I hope, a touch of humility. Even after a decade on the show I'm still fascinated by the job site. These guys, who show up every day and work with their hands, are the real experts. It's my job to get the information out of them, share it with the audience, and then get out of the way.

TOH is taking on three projects this season. You're just wrapping up the first, the Charlestown Project, which is a 1,500-square-foot rowhouse. What was special about this type of renovation? Sure matters. And in this case, keeping it small—with some big improvements—is what makes it great. Not to mention, it's not often you get to work on a 150-year-old house in Boston's oldest neighborhood. It's small, charming, and historic. Perfect.

What's your best advice for homeowners about to embark on a remodel? Be fearless. You can do more than you think.



TUNE IN FOR NEW EPISODES ON PBS

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SPONSOR



Revamp for a ho-hum house

Craftsman-inspired upgrades give a 1950s ranch sorely needed curb appeal

BY KATHY O'NEILL-ERARD • ILLUSTRATION BY DRAGQNTS, INC.



BEFORE



↑ Flower boxes complement the shutters along the lower half of the house.

"WE LOVE our house, but the facade—the converted garage—is just poorly looking," says insider Jeremy Vandehey, who shares the Portland, Oregon, home with his partner, Stephanie Trapp. To help reimagine its lackluster exterior, we turned to Lobb and Greg Holshak of Holshak Design and Architecture.

"One of the biggest challenges is the entry," Greg says. The front door is situated around a corner and hidden from the street by a wood screen. The Holshaks suggest opening up the entry area and breaking up the long, low roofline with a gable over a new picture window. Natural cedar shingle siding nods to the Northwest locale, while clapboards offer an opportunity for color. A pergola screened with lattice conceals the former garage and creates a sheltered seating spot.

"I can't believe how much character our house could have!" Stephanie says. "And we love that we can do a lot of these ourselves."

finishing touches

A warm, cozy, white and early-20th-century detach garage fits the character.



paint
Twenty-eight colors enhance the natural cedar and white the facade. Golden white Sage Reddish-brown and Shell White. \$22 per gallon.



bracket
Sweetful supports in western red cedar advantage style to the gable and front porch. \$12.



roofing
Mixed-width cedar shingles look like cedar, but aren't. Cedar. Redwood. \$448 per square (500 square feet). Installed.



sconce
The all-rubbed wood finish features a warm, the house's new divided light window. Rejuvenation. \$290.

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Individual results may vary.

Ask your doctor if VIAGRA is right for you.

VIAGRA is a prescription medicine used to treat erectile dysfunction. VIAGRA is not for women or children.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION BELOW

Do not take VIAGRA if you:

- Take any other medicines called nitrates, often prescribed for chest pain, as this may cause a sudden, unsafe drop in blood pressure.
- Are allergic to sildenafil, as contained in VIAGRA and REVATIO, or any of the ingredients in VIAGRA.

Discuss your health with your doctor to ensure that you are healthy enough for sex. If you experience chest pain, dizziness, or nausea during sex, seek immediate medical help.

VIAGRA can cause serious side effects. Rarely reported side effects include:

- an erection that will not go away (priapism). If you have an erection that lasts more than 4 hours, get medical help right away. If it is not treated right away, priapism can permanently damage your penis.
- sudden vision loss in one or both eyes. Sudden vision loss in one or both eyes can be a sign of a serious eye problem called non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy (NAION). Stop taking VIAGRA and call your health care provider right away if you have any sudden vision loss.
- sudden hearing decrease or hearing loss. Some people may also have ringing in their ears (tinnitus) or dizziness. If you have these symptoms, stop taking VIAGRA and contact a doctor right away.

Before you take VIAGRA, tell your health care provider if you:

- have or have had heart problems such as a heart attack, irregular or irregularly fast, or slow, chest pain, narrowing of the aortic valve, or heart failure.
- have had heart surgery within the last 6 months.
- have had a stroke.
- have low blood pressure, or high blood pressure that is not controlled.
- have a deformed penis (hypertrophy).
- have had an erection that lasted for more than 4 hours.
- have problems with your blood cells such as sickle cell anemia, multiple myeloma, or leukemia.
- have retinal degeneration, a rare genetic fault in blood vessel disease.
- have ever had severe vision loss, including an eye problem called NAION.
- have bleeding problems.
- have or have had stomach ulcers.
- have liver problems.
- have kidney problems or are having kidney dialysis.
- have any other medical conditions.

Tell your health care provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

VIAGRA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect the way VIAGRA works, causing side effects. Significantly, tell your health care provider if you take any of the following:

- nitroglycerin and isosorbide.
- medicines called platelet blockers such as Plavix (clopidogrel HCl), Plavix (ticagrelor HCl), Cardene (nisergrel mesylate), Nuplate (prasugrel HCl), Aggrenox (ticagrelor HCl), Jaltis (ticagrelor and ticagrelor HCl), or Raparello (ticagrelor). Alpha-blockers are sometimes prescribed for prostate problems or high blood pressure. In some patients, the use of VIAGRA with alpha-blockers can lead to a drop in blood pressure or to fainting.
- medicines called HIV protease inhibitors, such as ritonavir (Norvir), indinavir sulfate (Crixivan), zalcitabine (Fortovase or Invirase), or zalcitabine (Zalcitabine).
- some types of anti-androgenic medicines, such as ketoconazole (Nizoral) and miconazole (Gynexin).
- some types of antibiotics, such as clarithromycin (Biaxin), levofloxacin (Levitec), or erythromycin.
- other medicines that treat high blood pressure.
- other medicines or treatments for ED.
- VIAGRA contains sildenafil, which is the same medicine found in another drug called REVATIO. REVATIO is used to treat a rare disease called pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). VIAGRA should not be used with REVATIO or with other PAH treatments containing sildenafil or any other PDE5 inhibitors (such as Adcirca [tadalafil]).

VIAGRA does not protect against sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

The most common side effects of VIAGRA are: headache, flushing, upset stomach, abnormal vision, such as changes in color vision, such as having a blue color tinge, and blurred vision, stuffy or running nose, back pain, muscle pain, nausea, dizziness, rash.

Please see important Facts for VIAGRA on the following page or visit www.viagra.com for full prescribing information for VIAGRA (50 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg tablets).

Data taken from the Massachusetts Male Aging Study. Of 1,792 respondents, 52% stated they had some degree of ED.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA.

Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

For more information go to www.viagra.com or call 1-888-384-2472 (1-888-VIAGRA).

GENTLEMEN:
VIAGRA helps guys with ED
get and keep an erection.

 **VIAGRA**
(sildenafil citrate) oral tablet

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Build a rolling library ladder

Route oak boards and install specialty hardware to create an elegant addition to any built-in bookcase. BY PAUL HOPE • PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRUCE LUCE

YOU MIGHT ASSUME a rolling ladder belongs in a dark-paneled library filled with brass lamps and leather-bound fine editions. But such a handsome and useful piece works equally well in a kitchen, to reach high cabinets, in a family room with a towering bookcase, or even in a cheerful reading nook, like the one at right. Hardware isn't typically include rollers, wheels, and fasteners for the ladder, so you'll buy the track separately and cut it to length. You can, of course, buy the ladder, unassembled, but we built ours from sturdy red oak. Follow along on the next page as *The Old House* senior technical editor Mark Powers walks you through the steps.

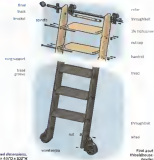
Hardware: Custom-Sized Hardware Rolling Metal Ladder Hardware Kit in Black (\$95) is free around this site. Black \$100 40" Vertical Track Brackets \$22 each, 24" x 6" and 18" x 6" Brackets \$14 each (all from Top-Forging Products) \$34 (cathedral.com)



cost: \$154
time: Two days
difficulty: Moderate
You'll need to cut angled grooves with a router.

DIY-Y-TO-DAY TIMELINE

SATURDAY Prep the parts (Steps 1-3)
SUNDAY Build and mount the ladder (Steps 4-5)



TOOLS

tape measure
miter saw
combination square
jigsaw
router
drill/driver
circular saw
router
1/4-inch pin and nut
1/4-inch straight router bit
1/4-inch roundover router bit
1/4-inch bit
1/2-inch bit
1/4-inch bit
120-grit sandpaper
24-inch angled sandbrush
router
hex-key wrench
adjustable wrench
Phillips-head screwdriver
2-foot level

MATERIALS

2x4 oak boards
Get two 10' boards for the handrails.
2x5 oak boards
Get one 12' board for the treads.
1/4-inch oak spindle
Get one 12x12x12 length.
1/4-inch roundover bit
Order one that includes the router bit and the router.
1/4-inch roundover router bit
Order a track for the router.
1/4-inch bit
1/2-inch bit
1/4-inch bit
120-grit sandpaper
24-inch angled sandbrush
router
hex-key wrench
adjustable wrench
Phillips-head screwdriver
2-foot level

2 FINISH THE HANDRAILS

A **Drill the spindle hole.** On the inner board one handrail, measure and mark a point 4 inches down from the top along the centerline. Chuck the 1/4-inch Forster bit into the drill/driver and make a hole, stopping when the tip of the bit is flush with the board as shown. Repeat on the innermost face of the other handrail.

B **Route the grooves.** To form the tread grooves, make a guide from 1x4 stock with parallel 12-degree ends. To find its length, compensate for the router's base. Fit the bit over the measure from the edge of the 1/4-inch straight bit to the base's flat edge, and subtract from 30 inches—the distance between trends. Cut your guide, clamp it flush with the bottom of one handrail, and route a 1/4-inch deep groove across the handrail. Weigh 3x4 stock on the groove to brace the guide bit the next cut, as shown. Work your way up the handrail, stopping the router. Repeat with the other handrail.

C **Route the bullnose.** Fit the router with the 1/4-inch roundover bit. Clamp down the handrails and the 2x5 tread stock without edge of each board extending off your worktable. Rout the edge of each board, flip the board over, and rout the edge on the opposite side, completing the bullnose profile. Do the same on the opposite edges of each board, as well as on the top edges of each handrail.

TIP Router bits spin clockwise, so for the greatest control, move the tool in the direction that keeps the bit hitting into the wood.



1 SHAPE THE LADDER HANDRAILS

A **Cut the handrails.** The 2x4s should go from endboard to endboard, so that you don't block your books. Pick one high enough to get you to the top row of at least 7 inches down from the ceiling, to allow room for the ladders when it's pushed against the bookcase for storage. Whatever the height of your shelf, get the length for the handrails by measuring from the shelf to the floor, then adding 5 inches to build in a climbing angle. Cut two oak 2x4s to length, making parallel 12-degree miter cuts at each end to ensure the proper pitch for your ladder.

B **Shape the tops.** Measure 5 inches down the edge of one handrail from the acute angle and make a mark. Hold the combination square against the rail's mitered end, lining up the blade with your mark. Draw a outline as shown. Cut along the line with a hand plane, shaping the top, creating the correct angle for the rolling handrails. Mark and cut the top of the other handrail.



3 PREP THE TREADS

A **Drill the holes.** Fit the drill/driver with the 1/4-inch bit and drill two pilot holes into each tread groove, each one spaced 1/4 inch from a handrail's edge. Switch to the 1/4-inch bit and drill a hole 1/4 inch below the bottom of each groove, centered side to side, to accept the rung supports.

B **Finish the pieces.** On the miter saw, cut the full-board 2x5 into individual treads. Measure and mark spots 1/4 inch from each corner along the edges and connect each pair of marks to form a diagonal outline. Set the miter saw to 45 degrees and cut the treads corners as shown.

Use 120-grit sandpaper to sand down the handrails' spindle and treads. Prime and paint the pieces, using the 24-inch angled sandbrush, leaving grooves and tread edges bare to grip the glue during assembly.



4 FINISH THE ASSEMBLY

A) Attach the treads. Run a bead of wood glue in each groove and the spindle hole of one handrail. Press each tread in place, standing upright. Use the square. Apply glue to the grooves of the other rail and settle it on top of the treads and square. Tapping it home with the mallet. Use the drill/driver to tighten two of the supplied 3/4-inch weather-head screws through the outer face of each rail and into the ends of each tread. Measure carefully from the top of each handrail to the bottom of the other one to make sure the ladder is square—the two numbers must match.

B) Install the supports. Attach first caps to one end of the rungs supports. Thread a support through a pilot hole, as shown and attached at the other end with a nut & washer. Use the hex key/wrench to attach and to tighten the device. Install the remaining supports.



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app or go to houzz.com/weekend2014

5 MOUNT THE LADDER

A) Attach the rollers. Push on the roller hardware at the angled top of a handrail.

Fit the drill/driver with the 1/8-inch bit, hold the hardware's anchor, and drill pilot holes through the bracket holes into the edge of the handrail. Fasten the hardware with the included wood screws. Drill a second set of 1/8-inch pilot holes through the bracket holes on the side of the rollers, through the handrail, as shown, and secure the rollers with the included through-bolts and nuts. Tighten them with a hex key/wrench. Install the hardware for the second handrail.

B) Attach the wheels. Center a wheel along the inside bottom edge of each handrail, and drill pilot holes through the bracket into the handrail. Use the hex key/wrench to tighten the through-bolts while securing the nut with the adjuster wrench, as shown. Drive the supplied wood screws into the hole at the base of each bracket.

C) Mount the ladder. Thread the metal brackets into the track, spacing them to line up with the holes on your bookcase, no more than 32 inches apart. Hold the track against the bookcase, drill pilot holes at the bracket on one end, and use the screwdriver to attach it with wood screws. Hold the track level and install the remaining brackets. Thread a final nut on each end of the track, and hold your ladder in place. ■



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When it comes to innovation, tech companies get all the glory these days—especially, we’ve noticed, as it relates to the home. Indeed, smart-home gear is everywhere, including within the pages of this issue (see “High-Tech Ways to Make Entertaining Easier,” page 43). That’s fine. And though we’ve selected a few such products to receive the TOH Top 100 mantle—we couldn’t resist the brilliant DIY security camera on page 73—our mandate goes well beyond stuff made with silicon. We’re talking about a clever spit-to-oven roaster for the perfect chicken (page 66), trash bags that stand up by themselves (page 76), a suite of moldings with matching doors (page 79) and a drywall knife notched to leave the ideal joint in its wake (page 71). These are decidedly low-tech yet very smart, and they possess a quality we value above all others: They make owning or renovating a home a better experience. Which is to say, they deserve some glory too. Turn the page to see what we mean.



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BETTER, CRISPIER, JUICIER

THE ULTIMATE CHICKEN ROASTER
BY WILLIAMS-SONOMA

This clever countertop roaster is a roasting chicken backdoor on the grill or in your oven, allowing you to circulate heat evenly around the bird and juices to spit-roast down and baste the breast, keeping it moist. The result? Perfectly crisp skin and juicy meat that's done cooking long before the breast meat is bone dry. \$30. williams-sonoma.com

MADE THE CUT

TYN CLIP COMPACT
2-IN-1 SCISSORS
BY JOSEPH JOSEPH

Slide a catch lever and the spring-loaded stainless steel blades open, close them and those scissors hang from a hook or in nearly any drawer. In locked position, they double as a box cutter. \$13. josephjoseph.com

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YES IT CAN

AS A 12-oz. SEAM-ROUND
SPOON CAN
BY SIMPLYHUMAN

Here's how you could use a better dish-can. Make it open with the wave of a hand and stay open as the task requires. Extra points for the built-in round shape which hugs the wall instead of hogging kitchen space. \$22. simplyhuman.com



WATER NOW!

POWERED WATER
FILTRATION SYSTEM
BY AQUASANA

It's the drip, drip, drip at the filter pitcher as it cutting it, consider a countertop water filter. The plugs in to push out a gallon of clean water in 2 minutes. Filters 99 percent of chlorine, lead and other contaminants. \$130. aquasana.com

HANG 'EM ALL

FULL-OUT COOKWARE STORAGE
BY GLODWARE

We're happy to say add to the list of things that are hanging around for an early breakfast: drying rack. This draining-dish organizer mounts to the top of any island cabinet and serves your pots and pans (and their lids) on a single extending rack with adjustable hooks. Dried photos on built-in shelves make it one smooth operator. \$130. glodware.com

WRAPAROUND STORAGE

UNDERMINE FULL-OUT U-SHAPED BASKET WITH
SOFT CLOSET BY REV & ORLEY

We're big fans of cabinet drawers that are easy to open, access, close, all the more so when they're as precisely as the U-shaped drawer that wraps around under your countertop. The chrome wire design will stand up to forks and chips. \$240 for a 29-in. wide version; rev & orley.com

KITCHEN ISLAND BREEZES

TORNA PENDANT FAN
BY AEGIS

Five reversibly angled blades, just as airways, not down, so this compact pendant fan won't blow recipes, all the counter's small gas burners or cool-down dinner. \$447. aegis.com



SLICK!

MAT LUNARIE SERIES
FLEXIBLE INDUCTION
COOKTOP BY THORNBURG

Instead of dedicated burners, this 30-inch cooktop is studded with 48 individual coils that create the size, shape, and power level up to four pots—or a single 20 by 15-inch pan—so that you can focus your cooking skills on the food. It's also built with the countertop. \$5,499. thornburg.com



DOCK IN A BOX

DOCKING CHOPPER SUM USE
BY JOSH SOLUTIONS

Counters covered with chopping ingredients and tablets? Install this handy apparatus at the back of an existing drawer and plug it in. And you can power up to four devices at once. All while keeping them stored out of sight. \$258. dockingchopper.com

FOOLPROOF PICKLES

CRACKED-ON AUTOMATIC HOME
CANNING SPECTER BY BALL

This countertop runner takes the guesswork out of preserving fresh foods. Follow one of the 26 included recipes, load the appliance with up to six half-pint, three quart-size or four pint-size containers and let it for the food you're canning. You'll be left with perfectly preserved fare, no stockpot needed. \$299. ballhomebrewing.com



SUPER SURFACE

SEAL-TIGHT COUNTERTOP
BY COSENTINO

Quartz, porcelain, and glass are compressed under extreme heat and pressure to produce the seamless composite countertop. The result is a surface material so strong that you can use it in a 12-inch overhang with no supports—great for islands and bar tops. And because it's nonporous, it resists both indoors and outdoors. From \$58 per square foot. dclon.com



SNACKER'S DELIGHT

SEEK BY SICK FOOD SHOWCASE REFRIGERATOR BY SAMSUNG

Grab a bite without letting out of the cold. This fridge is stainless steel outer door opens into shallow bins for drinks, snacks, and condiments. The transparent inner door offers a glimpse of what's inside the main compartment. \$2,999. samsung.com

SHOCKINGLY STURDY BAKEWARE

OVERHEAT TEMPERATURE CLAS
BAKING DISHES BY DORALUX

Tempered glass bakeware is nothing new, but these French-built bakeware will stand firm in a range of nearly 600°F without shattering, and they're even safe to sear on a 572°F. Six sizes from \$15. doralex.com



UNDER PRESSURE

INSULATED PUCK
PRESSURE COOKER
BY KITCHENAID

Using the same principles as your grandma's classic pressure cooker, this appliance has a sealed pot designed to build pressure and cook food in 10 to 15 minutes. It's built out of a beautiful, brushed stainless steel. It's a 6-quart, 32-watt—more than an hour less than a conventional oven. \$240. kitchenaid.com



KitchenAid

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BATH



TO SHOP FOR THESE ITEMS, SCAN THE IMAGE WITH THE BLUPAR APP OR GO TO THISOLDHOUSE.COM/SHOP

TRUE BLUE

BLUE DOUGH-TILE
BY ANN SACKS

We can't say we've ever seen natural stone quite like this before. It's beautiful. The mossy blue color and natural veining in the blue have combined with streaks of brilliant white, gray and black. From \$37 per square foot. annacks.com



ON THE SIDE

BATH MIRROR WITH PALETTE
BY DECORA CABINETRY

It's nice to see such a novel concept for cramped bathrooms: a medicine cabinet with shelves and doors that open to the sides so that you don't have to slide a swinging door into your bathroom. From \$1,622. decoracabinetry.com



SQUEAKY CLEAN

3-IN-1 ACTION MIST
BY RELAXAIR

Without using this sterilizing steam mop, you'll never have your eyes to the power of 2-100°F water vapor, steam, and disinfectant. It's steam alone isn't enough. The scrubbing brushes should be. Other attachments to take any flooring or carpeting, and the swinging transporter handle keeps up with corners. \$169. relaxair.com



VALET SERVICE

SWITCH BY PEG AND WENDY POOL

Put your favorite dress, shirt, sweater, or coat on a hanger and then speed-dry. Ten minutes later to dry. Your garments are not only washed and steam-pressed. Reserve trips to the dry cleaner for actual stains. \$499. switch.com



SOFT SPOT

PEVA & ENVIRO DOOR WITH COMFORTACRYL BY STERLING

Here is a brilliant answer to the universally uncomfortable metal track on tubs and shower doors: a soft spot for extra rubbery bottom track that gently compresses under pressure. Cleaning the tub is now a tad less of a pain. From \$280. sterlingliving.com



TIMELESS ACCESSORIES

PETITOL CUP-HOLDER AND SOAP DISH BY REJANATION

We couldn't resist the sharp curves of this classic Victorian-inspired wall-mount design: a tidy way to keep the essentials out of the splash zone. \$68 each in polished nickel. rejanation.com

DEEPLY IMPRESSIVE

ATLANTIC CERAMIC UTILITY SINKTOP BY KOBACH

Who dreads laundry sink? Here's the top edge plastic tub. It's inspired by the depth and shape of this ceramic utility sink which can save you a soaking. Available in black and look you at home. \$149. atlanticceramic.com



WATER-SAVER

3-IN-1 DUAL FLUSH TOILET BY KANGARA CONSERVATION

This dual flush throne takes the crown for an industry low average of 0.66 gallons per flush. Well under the challenge. 3.0 gallons. That's thanks to a tank redesign that creates a preurinated pathway to push water out of the bowl. From \$322. kangaracorp.com



POTENT PLUNGER

BAKED HIGH-TEMPERATURE PLUNGER BY KOBACH

We love low flow toilets. Until they clog. This clever implement is the first model designed to fit the elongated bowls of high efficiency commodes thanks to a concealed insert that seals up the waste hole. Works with conventional fixtures too. \$14. kobach.com



SELF-STARTER

PS-100 ADJUSTABLE BATHROOM CONSERVATION CONTROL BY DUSTOP

Pretend a wall switch that automatically turns on the vent fan when device people forget. Then they can look a shower—then shut it off once the humidity levels back to normal. New picture tracking humidity levels to know what a normal fan rate is for your home so that it won't be fooled by weather. Pretty smart. \$14. dustop.com



PLUMBER'S HELPER

TOILET GASKET BY SAME SEAL

Recess? No more. Dish out for a replacement was ring because you might find the first one. With this flexible one-size fits all polyurethane flange gasket, you can fit and reposition the toilet until it's a snug fit. It keeps bolts upright, too. \$12. sameintl.com

BRIGHT IDEA

NON-SLIP FLOOR STICK BY KOBACH

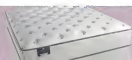
At least we upgrade to go old toilet seat that doesn't involve wood grain. A soft light bulb into the seat helps illuminate your target at night. And a lever turns it off in the morning. No need to switch on the overhead light—or remove splatters. From \$65. kobach.com



CLEANER GLASS

EASY CLEAN GLASS TREATMENT KIT BY ENVIROSHIELD

This spray-on treatment repels water, oil, dirt, minerals, and soap scum, removing stains without a harsher. Our favorite feature? One application lasts three years. Great for shower doors—and windows and windows too. From \$35 for a kit that treats 40 square feet. enviroshield.com



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a home created by you



TOOLS



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SPRAY-FREE SAWING

7 INCH 1.5L SAW WITH HYDROLOCK SYSTEM BY SKIL

We're not sure why it took so long to give the blade guard of a wet saw with a water-cooling rubber gasket, but we're delighted that the time has finally come. Now we can cut tile without getting sprayed by a steady stream of sticky water. **\$149** skiltools.com

TANK-FREE TACKING

AIR-STRIKE IN GAUGE CORDESS STRAIGHT FINISH NAILER BY FYDOD

A compression chamber built into the body of the tool lets you fire fasteners with the power of a pneumatic nailgun—and without the compressor. The 18-volt battery will fire 600 nails on a single charge. **\$299** fydodtools.com



CYCLONIC CUTTER

CLUT COLLECTOR CYCLONIC SAW BY HAN TOOLS

Ingenuous open ports on the blade guard create a pressure differential that pulls sawdust into the clear chamber as the user cuts—no vacuum, no hoses, no kinked tubing. Made for using contractors' handling time, but it's also for the average DIYer: too, they say, please. Fine, a filter saw version? **\$179** hantools.com



LOST AND FOUND

CHOPLO LOCATOR TAG BY CHOPLO

Stop shouting, "Honey! Have you seen my tape measure?" and start using this cheap Bluetooth-enabled tag and its smartphone app to track items that often go missing. Can I find your phone? Sure, the tag's made of ring. **\$29** choplo.net

KRAZY WOOD GLUE

WEA 630-01-2010 FAST AND WOODSOME BY SIKULU

With this versatile one-part adhesive, there's a less clamping time—8 seconds versus 15 to 60 seconds—and it sets to 90 percent in 30 minutes—and less grip work because it doesn't shrink or stain like woodwork glue. Also works on metal, plastic, ceramic, and rubber. **\$7.99** for 3 ounce simonchemistry.com



ON POINT

SCREW POINT EDGE BRAD NAILER BY BOSTITCH

Ever notice how the contact arm—that safety device wrapped around the nose of most nailguns to prevent you from firing into the air—is so bulky that it blocks you from seeing where your nail will go? So do Bostitch. That's why they built it into the nose, greatly reducing its profile. Hello, Hollywood! **\$225** bostitch.com



SMOOTH MOVE

HEAT PORTABLE CERAMIC SANDING BELT BY NORTON

We don't enjoy cleaning sanding belts any more than changing them, so we welcome the first belt with all ceramic abrasives. They cut sanding time and last up to twice as long as their steel-lined aluminum-coated options. From **\$25** each. nortonconsumer.com

HEAT SEEKER

FLIR ONE SATURATED PHONE CASE, BY FLIR

With this case jiggled onto an iPhone 5 or 5s, you can see through your phone's lens into a hidden world of hot and cold—indications of air and water leaks, missing insulation, buried pipes, even termites' entrances. The compatibility is striking, but it's such a cool tool that we think it would be worth hanging on to your phone. The case costs a fraction of a smart phone device. **\$39** for each.



EASY DOES IT

20 VOLT MAX LITHIUM CORROSION-RESISTANT AUTOMATIC SCREWDRIVER BY BLACK+DECKER

few have to applaud a self-adjusting driver that automatically cuts power when it senses that a screwdriver's flush with the surrounding material. When you need to sink a screw below the surface, simply override the setting. **\$62** blackanddecker.com



MUD BY NUMBERS

PURETHERM POINT GAUGE BY SAHCO, AVAILABLE AT LOWE'S

Taping and patching drywall joints is an art. The patented lip on this taping knife builds the right layer of compound over butt joints, making mudding a skill within anyone's reach. Now, a daily fix could send an empire. **\$12** wernered.com

WRITE ON

RECALL MARKERS BY NINEWORKS TOOL

Jacking down a measurement on a scrap of metal anything from a gasket pipe to a order book to a scratched 2x4 just got easy. At the non-permanent acrylic tips in three markers don't dig up like typical felt tipped options. From **\$1.29** each nineworkstool.com



2 BLADES ARE BETTER THAN 1

DUAL-SIDE BLADES RECIPROCATING SAW BY CRAFTSMAN

All had the first recip saw with two blades cutting in opposing directions, they offset each other a push/pull reducing vibration and kickback. Now get out there and find a saw to demolish 2x6's, double joists.



GET A GRIP

RATCH N LOCK PLIERS BY B&B

Ratcheting cam pins in the joint of these pliers allow them to slip lock, or ratchet, depending on the need, so you can hold onto nut bolts or tighten a hex nut all with one uncompromising tool. **\$22** getit.com



ALL REVVED UP

POWER REACH WIRELESS CHARGING SYSTEM BY BOSCH

This lithium driver's inductive dock charges the battery without it coming off the tool, letting you go as you work. The only downside? The old, my driver will I charged excuse will no longer cut it when you're trying to avoid sparks around the house. **\$279** as shown. boschtools.com



IGNORE THE GAP

GAPO MAINTENANCE TOOE BY NATIONAL NAIL CORP.

This spring-loaded drill attachment lets you install pressure-treated deck boards, snug up against each other, fasteners buried in their edges so that when they eventually contract, you're left with a smaller gap between boards. **\$39** nationalnail.com

RACHAEL RAY

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OUTDOOR



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COMING UP ROSES

TEARFUL UPGRADE: THE BY VICTORIA TILLY

Hard-chopped and hand-guided lines replicate a 1900s Craftsman rose irrigation by iconic designer David Mueller. The party's 4 by 4 inch side slider (right) lets Mueller choose number of roses to create an arched welcome. \$54 per side. miller.com



THE STRONG, SILENT TYPE

With its industry first 56-volt lithium-ion battery, the 20-inch mower packs the power of a gas engine minus the fumes, noise and weight, and runs up to 45 minutes. The battery recharges in just 30 minutes. \$199. greenworks.com

NICE GRILL MARKS

BURST OF DURABLE CHILLING BEET BY COOKINA

Let cheer! For the best grill-friendly food that manages to transfer attractive (and flavorful) grill marks onto food so you can keep racks clean and keep smolderers from falling through. \$15 per roll. cookina.com



PITCHER PERFECT

ANTIOXIDANT-PITCHER SET BY COVINT

The first-of-its-kind antioxidant-leaking function of this BPA-free plastic pitcher means you can entertain outdoors without worrying about staining, spills or super-sticky party invaders like bees and wasps. \$30. goantiox.com



IT'S TEATIME

ORGANIC PLANT FOOD: WASH BY BORDEN & BELL

The alchemy of transforming ordinary soil-better leaves with nitrogen-rich fast-acting fertilizer has just got a whole lot easier with this stainless steel water-laced. Call: Borden & Bell. \$85. bordenandbell.com



WALL ART

CLASSIC HISTORICAL EXHIBITS BY PLANTNOT

As low as vintage gardening, even more so when you let that belly manage the drive of walking. Just plug your plants into a series of metal organic materials, fill the reservoir on top, and let it drip water at precisely the right rate. From \$89 for a 30" x 20" x 20" set, plenty to go.

HIGH AND DRY

EXTRA-HIGH COMPOSITE DECK BOARDS BY GREEN BAY DESIGN

Put your toes in the interlocking edges of these composite-deck boards form drainage channels that funnel water to the side. In using this, formerly variable space underneath dry. Available in lengths up to 20 feet. \$4.30 per linear foot. greenbaydesign.com



TATER TOPS

COLORFUL POTATO-GROW BAG BY GARDENER'S SUPPLY COMPANY

Never had a fresh dug potato? Time to grow your own. This clever contraption removes the filling and filling of an ground potato planting. Just add your soil to the 36-inch tall bag as plants grow, then dump it out at harvest. \$15. gardeners.com



GARDENER'S GO-TO

ADAPTOR BY NORTON

This super ergonomic wheelbarrow can be used as a hand truck to carry mulch or soil or filled with included shovels to move soil, pebbles, bricks, planters, or even boulders. All while lightening a 200-pound load to feel like a mere 37 pounds. \$149. norton.com

LEAVE IT OUTSIDE

RAIN OUTDOOR FIRM BY SUNBELLA

We're pleased to meet the new outdoor version of the already firm-to-look-resistant fabric. It's less your affable, but it's more your delightfully dry, long after you've forgotten them outside. Prices vary. sunbella.com/buy-for-retailers



SPRINKLER IN A BOX

DIY SPRINKLER SYSTEM BY RAIN GARD

As much as we love fiddling with plumbing fittings, this sprinkler set removes the guesswork from designing your own system, giving you everything you need—and nothing you don't—so you can set it up in 3,000-square feet. \$150. raingard.com



GET A GRIP

COMFORTABLE GARDEN TOOLS BY CORONA

Ultra-quiet, ultra-grippy handles are easy on the joints and a breeze to hang on to at dawn's weather. The burgundy price is low, but these stainless steel tools—including the transplanter, hoe, and weeder—shoes—are not at all cheap. From \$9.99 each. coronahouse.com



FOOLPROOF FEEDER

RECORD PLANT FOOD BY MIRAGE GPO

Houseplants give us a fair warning when it's time to feed them. This potent, room-based plant food cracks the code, delivering a precise rate of nutrients with each pump. \$4. miragegpo.com



A CLASSIC, ENERGIZED

RECHARGEABLE BATTERY CHAIR BY ALFRESCO HOME

We're suckers for color, as well as for the first time on the bedrock floor. A Kelly lime green powder-coated steel lawn chair from Alfresco Home is a lot of energy into your patio. \$325 for a set of two. alfrescohome.com



REMOTE TANK-READER

NOT THE PROPANE GAUGE BY QUINN

This handy propane tank scale works over 15 ft. so you can see how much fuel is left while you're picking up the stakes—instead of when it's too late to do so. \$149. quinn.com

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excellent
balance of art and engineering





BUILDING PRODUCTS

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STEEL IS A DEAL

NO-1 COLDEST-TEMP WITH ELEMENT GLASS DOOR BY VAN MATE

Customers are one of our favorite house styles and we're glad to know that now, with this new embossed steel door, you can get the look of your heart's content at a bird's-eye of the price for a fiberglass or wood version. From \$755. vanmate.com



TIP-TOP WINDOW

2014 NO. 1 COMPROMISE QUAD PANE WINDOW BY 2014 EUROPEAN WINDOWS

At first the rush to reduce home energy use, it's gratifying to discover a 10-year-old wood version with a whopping 9.15, hitting its four panes of glass make it 3.3 times better than the Energy Star performance requirement. From \$4,584 for a 28 by 48-inch 10-year-old europeanwindows.com



LOOKS JUST LIKE THE REAL THING

TULSIAN PORCH DECKING BY WESTCOAST BUILDING PRODUCTS

Like all composite decking, it's to look like tropical wood. This slip-resistant product made with rice hulls, mineral oil and urethane actually pulls it off. It won't absorb water, stain or you can stain it immediately—with a sealer that has a 10-year life span. \$3.25 per linear foot. westcoastpb.com



GREEN AND CLEAN

WATER-TO-TOXIC-ADHESIVE BY MCKINLEY PRODUCTS

This is the first residential carpeting with fibers that are made from 100 percent recycled plastic bottles and then recycled, nearly all the dirt attracting particles that normally make it into recycled carpet. Each yard diverts up to 77 bottles from landfill. \$30-\$40 per square yard. mckinleyflooring.com

PRETTY IN PINK

CARPENTER'S COLOR CHANGE WOOD FILLER BY KAHNS

The rule with wood fillers: Sand when dry. But how to know? This filler takes out all the guesswork by shifting from a pink hue to white (or beige) when it's dry. Interior use only. \$5 for 4 ounces. kahns.com



HI-TECH ANTIQUE FLOORS

GRANDE COLLECTION BY KAHNS

A sustainable update of an old-world penetrating oil finish tops this engineered wide-plank flooring, allowing you to easily touch up scratches or even areas with a stone oil. There's no need to sand the whole floor down to bare wood. The 9-foot-long boards can install as a floating assembly. From \$10 per square foot. kahns.com

STONE-AND-SLAG SHEATHING

COMPOSITE BOARD BY KAHNS

Here's a great alternative to long boards made from basalt rock and iron slag. It's breakable and water-repellent and resists exterior water, mold, mold, and basement air at 4 per inch—and that won't diminish over time. It's also noncombustible and a one-per-inch sound absorber. \$53 for 48 square feet. kahns.com



GLUE IN A CAN

MAXIMUM STRENGTH BUTY CONSTRUCTION ADHESIVE BY DAP

We'll take any innovation that replaces the cramping caulking gun. To apply the adhesive, simply pull the can's trigger, and a stream of sticky, strong polyurethane foam will shoot out. You get eight tubes, worth of adhesive from a single can. \$17. dap.com

NO BUGS WERE HARMED

DISPOSABLE ADVANCED SYNTHETIC BELLAC SEALER BY WEST-GLUE

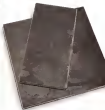
Meet the world's first man-made shellac. It has all the virtues of the original: fresh, excellent sealing, easy to install, fast-dry—and cleans up with water instead of mineral oil. Plus, it costs less than the stuff made from bugs. \$35 per gallon. westglue.com



STONE FLOOR IN A SNAP

32 SQUARE FEET OF STONE IN A SNAP

A mini stone floor without messy mortars and grout? Yes. These click together tiles feature a thin veneer of solid natural limestone and cork, giving you genuine stone that's warmer and more comfortable than cold stone, and that goes down quickly. \$7.99 per square foot. qualitycraft.com



PIN IT OWN

50% CONCRETE POSTER BY SIMPSON STRONG-TIE

What's a slick way to anchor a post, bracket, or post? It's to pin it. Slip the hooked end of a post over the bolted-down base, then tap three pins in place. Just like a timber frame. \$30 for a 4x4 base. strongtie.com



ROCK ON

AT BOARD BY JET PRODUCTS

Fear not, water-proof, insect-proof and strong, this sporty board made of high-tech polypropylene resin, does it all. Use it for a deck or playground for sheathing, instead of plywood based on exterior walls or mid-air deck board under floor. Even the smallest from 4 inches wide, \$25 for a 4 by 8 foot 16-inch thick panel. jetboard.com



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exceptionally
sleek with a touch of shine

FINISHING TOUCHES

FARMHOUSE FABULOUS



PERFECT PROPORTIONS

AND CRYSTALLINITY OF POLYMER FILMS

Judging by the popularity of these vintage-inspired lights, schoolhouse style will be in season for a long time. That's why we love this glam makeover, which incorporates the look of mercury glass in a curvier silhouette. \$254 victor.com



STEPPING STONE

BY PORCELAIN

My requirements for the look of hand-poured concrete, but it can be laborious and tedious, that experience this large format, through-color parietal tile offers a similar look with the nice touch of a floral accent, and it requires no sealer. \$13 per square foot for 23-by-23-inches (parietalstone.com)



MARVELOUS MOLDING

THIS PART MUST BE COMPLETED BY METRIC

The mostly original profiles in these five coordinated collections of moldings are impressive enough, but what won us over are the designs to match doors—taking the confounding guesswork out of finishing off a room in total bloom. Freshman forward poster child rail panel molding and floor-molding, both \$2.26 per linear foot, miller.com.



Cooked for kids, these wool carpet tiles have resonated with design-minded green-ups, who, like us, love the creative possibilities presented by free shapes and patterns, and five acid colors. The price is earth-shock, but maybe you'll want to splurge. From \$400 per piece! beckenrout.com

ARTISTIC TILES

PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

 Your artistic skills may have peaked in Pre-K, but having a hand-painted floor is actually as exciting as installing these unique tiles, designed by artist Sally Bennett and digitally printed on a durable engineered hardwood. Choose from a classic plaid floor or a fun floral, or customize your own for a few extra dollars. From \$15 per square foot. mudstudio.com



PUT THE HEX ON IT

SCHOOLHOUSE ELECTRIC
A. DUBLEY CO.

 We took notice of the shalle of rubbed/brons end brns leashes on these otherwise (class) look pult because they feel right at home with contemporary features. Available in leather or 14-inches \$14-\$17 [scholarship.com](http://www.scholarship.com)



EXAMPLE 2. DUCHENOT
DE LAURENCE

Looking to add a night light without rubbing yourself of an outlet? The clever receptacle cover traps air to creating a cuff and has built-in LED night lights that turn on and off automatically. \$12-\$15. [sweetcover.com](http://www.sweetcover.com)



PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM

NEW COLLECTION WALLPAPER
 100% COTTON - 100% COTTON

Patterns from the early 1800s through the 1980s housed at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, are specifically reinterpreted, including the rill on a gingham print by Arts and Crafts legend C F A. Voysey and a bold architectural motif. \$80 for a double rill. www.henderson.com



CUE
BARRY WHITE

© 2005 Blackwell Publishing Ltd, *Journal of Internal Medicine* 258: 105–112

Getting LEDs to work with dimmers was Step 1. We're the first to see a dimmer that has moved on to Step 2: finding a warmer color temperature as you dial down its 700 lumens, creating a cozy, incandescent-like glow for recessed fixtures. \$17; usa.ohlco.com

RUGS WITH A PEDIGREE

圖 1 圖例

Decor from high society designers is beyond the budget of most of the homeowners we know. Hints off to this tasteful collection of modern/contemporary area rugs for making owning a piece of American interior design history enjoyable. Starting at \$59. daniellacorbett.com



BEEN THERE,
DONE THAT

COMING SOON. BY SALLY LEE

Show off your perpetual explorer by sticking pins into this 10-inch cork globe—it's engraved with a simplified world map—to mark all the places you've been. Price included; you supply the traveling rights. \$200, cork.us.com

take \$ **20** off your \$ **150** purchase
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have an
extraordinary holiday

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ICON KEY

- energy-saver
- easy upgrade
- perfect position
- eco-friendly
- salvage

You
home
have
a story.



All the Comforts of Home

This 1896 house was so historic it boasted lead pipes, drafty windows, and no garage.

Then along came new owners with kids, cars, dogs—and a preservation-minded remodel plan

By Deborah Baldwin
Photographs by Anthony Tisak
Styling by Anna Mohr

BY CONCORD STANDARDS, the house was practically new. It had gone up a mere 115 years earlier, long after the town was incorporated and Finnish residents had put it on the Massachusetts map. But with its outward gambled roof presiding over a busy corner in a high-profile historic district, the Victorian-era house had its own kind of patina, and no one—least of all its new owners—wanted to cross with that.

Inside, the handsome front rooms and cozy staircase looked as if they'd been preserved in amber. "Not much had been done," says Alex Alisa, recalling the first time he and his wife, Andrea, saw the honey-colored floors and cozy inglenook. The black-cypress woodwork and heavy quarter-sawn oak newel posts had never seen pain and showed no signs of wear. During her 60-year reign, it turned out, the previous owner had reinforced her love to the core of the house.



The front entry inglenook and quarter-sawn oak floor needed only a little TLC.

Back then, the new owners could see room for improvement. "It was really run-down," Alex says. "There was a chimney that once served a coal stove, but it was sealed up and did nothing." The rest of the kitchen and pantry weren't exactly crying their weight either.

Aid, um, where to put the car?
 "That's why it sat for so long," Alex says, smiling how the house and its dirt drive languished for months in for-sale limbo. "No garage."

The couple had been raising their two kids in Vero Beach, Florida, while working for a family-owned business that manufactures bike racks for cars. Conceded was a draw because the schools are good and both sets of grandparents live nearby.

"Never having owned a house there, we didn't have any idea how harder it would be to get a garage approved," says Alex.

And that was just one item on a to-do list that ruled up keeping the family in Florida a year longer than planned.

As many pros like to try, administering to a house of a certain age can be tougher than building from scratch. Getting that 18th-downer back on her feet would require a team of crack "geriatricologists" able to update without altering the spirit of the place or staining the neighbors' backyards. (This is no-ordinary neighborhood. It houses a fence designed by Henry David Thoreau.)

"It's not a fix-it property, but it's a gem," says John Barile, the architect who took charge of the redo and end of up running interference with the local Historic District Commission. "It's on Main Street and highly visible, so the commission was going to give it a lot of scrutiny. We knew we had to be responsible."

Treadlight: Many late-night meetings, and forget about cranking an attached garage.

Haley Platt, the general contractor who waded in next, was similarly aware of the need for kid work gloves. Every system would have to be replaced, while making every effort to preserve the good stuff. It would be like dragging a house into the 21st century by horse and buggy. "A house like this, with very few modifications and repairs since it was built, is quite rare," he says, adding quickly, "I thought it was wonderful."

The intense designers, Junior Barile, architect John's wife, realized the challenge lay in joining together the redesigned back of the house, and its inevitable family-size show kitchen, with the quieter front half. "The owners wanted to keep the Victorian feel of the house but not to make it look like Grandma's parlor," she says. "There was a little tricky because the house has a dark gray floor all the way." Finding the right stain for new flooring, woodwork, and window frames alone

RIGHT The living room's original loads of woodwork had never been painted. Soft neutral and red accents flow from the room to the living room.

BELOW The living room's new working fireplace has a screen made from a refurbished cast-iron fireplace. (Front: Benjamin Moore's Santa Fe; walls: Spectacular Century Furniture; fabric: Glenbach; rug: Steven King; decorative: Corbett; Carlin's before: Robert



LEFT The dining room has new William Morris wallpaper and an original built-in bench with storage for table linens. The seating windows were mirrored after a bumpout at the back of the house blocked the view. Lightbulbs: Wall. Corbett; Tables and chairs: Woodbridge Furniture Co.



"was a huge project," she says. In speed, the crew had to patch, borrow casing and trim from other rooms with varying success. "Working with such colors," she says, "wasn't an easy, easy work."

At the same time, however, there was virtually no need to battle with. Restoring the inglenook, with its fireplace and bench seat, required more finesse than heavy lifting and included hiring a specialist who knew old things. "There were two old screws that ran on knobs and tube wiring," Platt says. "The house came up with the wonderful idea to move them to be low voltage and put the woodhouse in the basement, so we could keep them and most code." Then there was the skilled worker who not only refitted the inglenook chimney—using an intricate process called the Ahrens system,



SHOP THIS STYLE
 To find furnishings similar to those in this house, scan this page with the app or go to www.21sthouse.com

which leaves the brick smoothed—but also was able to seamlessly swap in replacements for cracked terra-cotta hearth tiles. A bricksmith stepped in to repair the living room fireplace's cast-iron fireback.

Before he could get to these satisfying details, Platt had to open up walls to replace all the wiring and plumbing, including lead waste pipes so old and rusty that one plumber asked if he could take pictures.

An unusual type of "back plastering" in the front exterior wall had created air pockets for insulation but no way to blow in the closed-cell foam that Platt had planned. To help out drafts, he placed rigid foam in the pockets of the weight pockets that secured the upper sashes of the old double-hung windows. "We meticulously fixed the upper sashes, which allowed us to remove the window weights and add the foam. Then we outsourced the weights for the lower sashes. It's a great



RIGHT: Andrews and Alex Adam gather with Bob Saffly and Jimmy in the new kitchen. **BOLDING:** American Import Interiors dispatches brickwork and homework at one end and dinner at the other. **COOKTOP:** Sire and Laurel Kohl



ABOVE: In the windowed pantry, beehive-shaped panini, pulled-together tile and wide oak floorboards add cottage charm. **COLORADO:** Platt Builders' Maureen DeMasters

DIY fix for old houses." New triple-track aluminum storms added a rather buffer, as did a "bat" of closed-cell insulation on the third floor.

Dragging away the belching cast-iron Buellman furnace in favor of two stainless steel wall-hung Buderus boilers was one thing, harder was threading air-conditioning ducts and hot-water lines for the forced-air system up through the dining room walls to an air handler added on the third floor. To make way for more lines over the foyer, Platt says he had his crew pull down the plaster ceiling and cyprus box-beam trim and put it back. How's this done? "Very carefully," he says.

The big challenge for the weekend was reconstructing the quaintly original back of the house to suit a household more interested in kindness than front parlors. The rear was narrower than the front and crisscrossed with small, closed-off spaces, and "there was no flow from front to back—it was severed because the help

floor plans

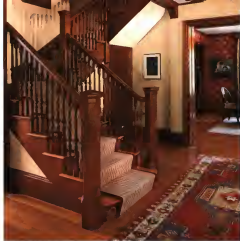
Bumping out the first floor of the house adds 300 square feet, and an upstairs porch became part of the new master suite. The kitchen, which now opens to the front rooms, and the master suite and baths are new. The freshly painted clapboard-and-shingle house is now a roomy 3,844 square feet, which includes a third floor (not shown) with a guest room and a TV room.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR





LEFT Polished spindles and rails add presence to the original center hall staircase. *Fluor and Dendalag, Silverdale, Decorative Concepts*

went to the back," Bartle says. After working out several options in some detail, he won the historic commission's approval to gut this section and bump out the sides, signing the back with the front.

All this allowed a spacious kitchen with openings to the dining room, living room, and foyer. The new porous connection allows air and light to flow and sets up ideal traffic conditions for working parents with equally busy kids—Gabby, age 14, and Janey, 12—bird-dogged by two energetic French pointers.

Above the kitchen, Bartle created a master suite. It, too, abounded a cluster of spaces, including a sleeping porch suspended precariously off one side. The kids scooped up the handsome rooms from the street, but "wasn't in the quietest part of the house and gets interesting sunlight," Alex says.

Along with the kids' rooms and two new baths, the second floor now has a laundry room and an office for Andrea, while the bonus third floor was remodeled to

hold a TV room and overnight guests. "The house is fairly sizable," says John Bartle, "but inside it's cozy, especially the public rooms, which have an intimate feel."

The one large, open space is the kitchen, where Alex, the household's top chef, got in a request for room to cook and hobnob. "I thought of my parents' home," he says. "The kitchen is where you always hang out." When Andrea put in her own request for an island that could handle homework and breakfast as well as dinner prep, John Bartle studied appliance needs and traffic patterns some more before working out a one-island-fits-all design, with a 48-inch cooktop placed at the business end and a buffet gathering spot with seating at the other.

Alex also wanted thick marble countertops. Flattened out all that stone by reinforcing the floor. To warm up the open space, Janey Bartle painted the island end, with a softening, ochre glaze.

"This was a fabulous project because each member of the team cared passionately about the finished product,"



RIGHT In the new master bath, a marble-topped double vanity and glass-front shower enclosures reflect light from the new west-facing window. *Scottish House Comfort, Seals and Comfort, Seattle*. **BELOW** New hardwoods and tiling in the master bath is new stained to match those in the original house. *Bob Strong, Lamps, Visual Comfort, Seattle* (also shown opposite)



says Flax. "We also had the luxury of 11 months and the budget to do the things that needed to be done. Otherwise those things don't all come together."

As for the garage, one neighbor just plans didn't want it, and the historic commission balked about it. "It was stressful," says Alex. "I went to the first hearing, then we decided to let John work it out."

The end result, which Bartle calls "a sweet little gem," proved pleasing to house owners and neighborhood preservationists alike. While smaller than originally planned—and detached from the house—it still manages to squeeze in two cars, three bikes, and a second-floor office for Alex. "I have nothing but good things to say about the process now, even though it wasn't a whole lot of fun," Alex says. "The architectural integrity is there, and that's what's important."

"In the end, everything worked out well," he continues, not least the luxury of a kitchen that is big enough for a crowd and nearly as warm as a Florida house. "For us, this house turned out to be a perfect fit." ■



ABOVE The new garage fits in front of the office upstairs and mirrors the look of the house.



QUIET IN THE HOUSE!

1 THUMPING WASHER

The washer provides out a space-ported heat you could dinner to
THE FIX: If you're not overloading the machine or creating unbalanced loads (jacking shirts and towels, for instance), check the level and adjust the feet as necessary. If that doesn't fix the problem, put your washer on anti-vibration pads (such as those made by Dura, available at home depot.com) to keep it from moving across the floor. If the machine is in a cabinet, apply sticks or rubber bumpers to the inside walls where the machine bumps it, to muffle the impact.

2 BANGING PIPES

If your supply lines didn't bring before, a new high-efficiency appliance is likely the cause. Today's washing machines and, to a lesser extent, dishwashers have quick-acting valves that allow them to fully open to fully close in a millisecond, repeatedly. That change in pressure can cause the pipes to jerk, whacking

Pounding washers, knocking pipes, roaring exhaust fans, whistling windows—nuisance noises are especially annoying when guests are on the way. But here's something to be thankful for: There are easy fixes for quieting the din, and many are less strenuous than, say, roasting a turkey or shoveling the driveway

BY JOSH GASKOFF
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ZOHAR LAZAR

them against the house's structure. **THE FIX:** Adding paper hangers will prevent the paper from moving, but that will only help if you can find the exact spot where the paper is bulging. This spot could as easily be hidden inside a wall or a floor as exposed somewhere in the basement.

A better solution is to install water-hammer arrestors—shock absorbers that cushion the demands of water pressure—connected to the appliance causing the hammering sound. They'll help relieve pressure throughout the system but will have the greatest effect when placed beside the offending machine. Detach the washing machine's hot and cold water supply hoses from their spigots, and screw on the arrestors between the spigots and hoses.

3 HAUNTED-HOUSE DOOR HINGES

Your haunted-house entrance doors creak loudly as they swing open or shut. **THE FIX:** Lift each hinge pin about 1/4 inch by feeding a nail inserted into it from below with a good hammer tap. (You may have to unscrew the hinge-pin finish first, depending on the hinge style.) Squirt a few drops of 3-In-One oil on the pin, move the door back and forth to work the lube down into the hinge, and repeat on the pin.

4 GROWLING GARAGE DOORS

The mechanical whirring of the garage door as it opens and closes disturbs guests in the room over the garage or irritates nearby neighbors. **THE FIX:** Inspect all bolts and screws on the door and tighten any loose ones, being careful not to overtighten or strip them. Lubricate chains, rollers, springs, wheels, hinges, and tracks with garage-door grease (a heavy-duty lubricant that dries quickly, so it won't get up with dirt and other outdoor debris). If the door doesn't quiet the rattle, have a garage-

door company to wrap in a higher-quality insulator that cuts a belt tension of a chain and to replace the metal wheels with nylon ones that move through the tracks with more ease.

5 SHUDDERING SASHES

If your windows rattle when the wind blows or a school bus goes by, start by checking the sash lock—it's likely broken or misaligned. This latch is designed to press the upper and lower sashes tightly together and rigidly against the frame so that there's no movement.

THE FIX: You can order replacement latches for almost any window (by housefromyourhardware.com). If there are too many screw holes to allow for easy installation, go with two new latches instead of one and space them evenly on the meeting rails. Start by installing the catch on the back meeting rail, making sure the lower sash won't hit it when it opens. Then install the case latch, spaced so that it pulls the window tight when it's at about 90°.

You can also adjust the steps—the narrow strips that hold the sash in place—on old wood windows. If the steps are screwed into place, tighten as necessary. Steps that are nailed in should be pried off and reinstalled so that they fit snugly against the window, consider replacing nails with window-stop band adapters and screws (available at windowrestoration.com) to make future adjustments easier.

6 CREAKING BED

Although beds can get noisy when box springs wear, slats rot, or ball-joint loose, the most common cause is the loose metal brackets connecting the rail to the headboard and footboard. "I see the problem once a week," says San Diego Furniture Repair's Scott Grossart. Most beds made in the past 40 to 70 years use metal rail brackets with bolts to fasten the side rails to the headboard

and footboard. As these brackets become worn, the bolts can go loose, causing a metal-on-metal squeal. **THE FIX:** Take the bed frame apart and look at the brackets. If they've opened up, tap them gently with a hammer to reposition them and create a tight, parallel slot for the receiving

7 GROANING STAIRS

Fasten a noisy step tight against the support below using a cordless drill to sink a Squareneck No More screw (mcfishys.com) through the tread and into the stringer. The screw-head will automatically break off right below the surface. This fastener holds better than a finishing nail but leaves a similarly inconspicuous hole.



8 BUZZING CHANDELIER

Dimmers work by flickering lights on and off 120 times per second, causing a cheap incandescent bulb's thin filament to vibrate and buzz. Install brand-name incandescent "heavy service" bulbs, which are designed to resist vibration and shock, or incandescent bulbs rated for 130 volts, instead of the standard 120 volts.



bulbs. If that doesn't work, tap a shim between the assembled rail and headboard or footboard of each offending joint to take play out of the connection.

9 RATTLING STORMS

Aluminum triple-track storm windows rattle most when they're not fully engaged in their tracks. **THE FIX:** Remove both gears and the screws and break debris out of the tracks. Spray with a silicone lubricant and re-install, making sure each component is engaged at all four corners and locked into place. If the screws keep rattling, the frame could be warped due to the house settling. Remove the entire frame with the windows intact and re-install, caulking the top and sides with a waterproof sealant. If the problem persists, order replacements from a home center or window supplier.

10 DEAFENING DRAWERS

Old wood on-wood drawers, such as those in an original linen closet or a butler's pantry, can squeak almost as if in pain when they're pulled open or pushed closed, especially when loaded with heavy items. **THE FIX:** Fine the friction by rubbing

wax on both surfaces, says The Old House general contractor Tom Silva, or purchase low-friction glides from a woodworker's supply outlet, such as rocklacers.

11 JET-ENGINE FRIDGE

Refrigerators get loud when they're working extra hard, says Glenn Berk, president of Appliance Guys repair service in Portland, Oregon. The second you hear in the cooling fan blowing onto the hot condenser coils. It'll start to complain during long stretches of heat and humidity—or simply because the compressor coils aren't dropping temperatures as easily as they should, thanks to dust and debris.

THE FIX: Remove the cover plate from the back of the fridge. On older models, the plate is likely mounted on the rear of the unit, on screw caps, it's often found at the bottom or the top, depending on where the duct is located. Use a flexible refrigerant coil brush to remove dust, lint and dog hair from the coils. You'll assist the fan's job easier and therefore quieter, and save electricity. Also, make sure there's an inch of clearance behind and above the condenser for proper airflow.

12 CHATTERING FURNACE

If you hear a loud rattle coming from your boiler's electrical control box when the system is idle, a recently installed programmable thermostat with a rechargeable battery may be at blame. These smart thermostats charge themselves by drawing a few watts of power from the circuit while the system is off; it's not enough to line up the heat, but it can cause the electrical relays to buzz and pop. **THE FIX:** Install a thermostat that uses replaceable batteries (instead of rechargeable ones—or hire an HVAC specialist to add a common wire to your circuit to provide a separate power supply).

13 RACKETY FLOOR HOOD

If you hear a flapping noise during windstorms, it could be the flap on the exhaust outlet outside. **THE FIX:** Use construction adhesive to attach a wooden or the flap to the wall or ceiling so that it won't blow around in the wind but will still open when you turn on the hood fan. If the fan itself is unusually loud, try cleaning the grease filter and the fan blades with warm water and a mild dish detergent. Or

hire an HVAC pro to install a new remote blower in the attic or on the roof, where the noise won't bother you as much. (Learn more at thisoldhouse.com/novdec2014.)

14 JANGLING BALUSTERS

Your balusters ring like a wind chime when someone uses the stairs.

THE FIX: Tack them in place by first drilling a small pilot hole and then hammering an angled 4- or 6-penny finishing nail through the top of the baluster and into the banister or the high side. If that doesn't work, angle one through the tread and into the trim at the base of the baluster and into the same stud again beyond it.

15 SQUEAKY OVEN OR DISHWASHER DOORS

Too hinges on these appliances take a lot of abuse, exposure to high heat permeates and moisture, and the weight of a heavy door moving up and down.

THE FIX: All they need is a liberal dose of white lithium grease applied, via the built-in nozzles, directly to the hinge pin and the attached eyelet that lightens the weight of the door.

16 RADIATOR RACKET

That banging is the sound of steam entering and colliding with cool water pooled in the radiator. Check for level, then insert a piece of plywood under the feet opposite the riser to pitch the unit slightly toward the pipe. This allows water that condenses out of the steam to drain out. Learn more at thisoldhouse.com/novdec2014.

17 WHISTLING HVAC RETURN

If your register sounds like a leaking tea kettle, it's time to take a closer look.

THE FIX: Look for a buildup of pet hair and dust on the backside of the grill—and vacuum it up. If that doesn't help, replace the filter, which could be clogged. "Replacing your return filter is like washing your face," says Tom. The Old House plumbing and heating expert Richard Tordella says, "You can't do it too much."

18 NOISY DUCTWORK

The clanging that forced-air heat can make when it comes out as the result of the furnace and it starts heating up quickly. Going from 60°F to 130°F in just minutes causes the metal to expand and knock.

THE FIX: Insulating the ducts with a blanket wrap or sleeve-style material can help keep them warmer so that the change in temperature isn't so drastic. It can also help muffle the noise.

19 RATTLING DOORS

A door that shakes and rattles when it's closed isn't closing firmly against its stop—the strip of wood trim on the doorframe against which

the door closes—so it should be replaced.

THE FIX: Placing a small felt or rubber bumper on the doorstop can prevent the closed door from moving around when wind blows through open windows or trucks rumble by. Otherwise, you can adjust the latch strike plate to keep the door tight against the stop when it's closed. Or, if that's not possible, remove the stop and install it against the closed door to ensure a tight fit—and be prepared for impatient trades up painting.

20 CREAKY WOOD FLOORS

Wood floors squeak because the boards—or the subfloor under them—are rubbing against each other or against a nail. Squeaking often requires a careful diagnosis of where the movement is coming from: joists, subfloor, or finish floor.

THE FIX: Have someone step on the squeaking spot while you're down on all fours looking and listening closely. If just a single floorboard is moving, which its neighbors stay stuck with, it's the culprit. Fasten it down using a pair of 3-penny finishing nails. "Set them an inch or so apart, angled like a V, and they'll



21 SCREAMING SHOWERHEAD

This fixture gets loud when the flow restrictor inside becomes clogged with mineral buildup—or debris kicked up by plumbing work upstream in the system. Disconnect the head from the shower arm and dismantle it, and remove any visible pieces of grit. To remove caked-on minerals, soak overnight in a zip-top bag filled with white vinegar. Apply new plumber's tape to the pipe threads before reinstalling.

lock the head into position," says Tom Silva. Or try Squickee No More aerosol (see number 7).

22 THUNDEROUS BATH FAN

Noisy vent fans that act like a motor-cycle when they get used, leading to bathroom moisture problems.

THE FIX: Start by loosening the cover screws to take the play out of them and ensure they're pulling the cover

tightly against the unit, preventing vibration. Or, with the cover breaker off, vacuum the fan and lubricate its spindle with a few drops of motor oil. If these fixes fail, try replacing the motor with an upgrade kit. Breezy's 60WATT (breezy.com) fan motor unit, takes about 10 minutes to install, and can cut the decibel level in half.

23 GURGLING WATER HEATER

That ominous rippling sound is caused by bubbles rising up through sediment in the bottom of your tank. **THE FIX:** Attach a garden hose to the tank's spigot and run it to the sump pump or outside. Shut off the valve on the tank's water supply line, open the valve connected to the hose, and let the water drain out. Turn the supply on full blast for several minutes to dislodge the buildup and allow the water to drain fully, repeat a half-dozen times. "If that doesn't work, the buildup is too hard and thick and your water heater needs to be replaced... soon," says Richard.

24 CLICKING BASEBOARDS

A click, click, click when your hot-water radiators are warming up happens when a supply pipe is sitting too close to a floorboard, tile, pipe strip, or other unsavory object. As the pipe heats up and expands, it rubs against the neighboring surface.

THE FIX: If you can track the noise to an accessible location, spray silicone lubricant on the pipe. Don't get the tile or wood back, as there's too much risk of damaging the pipe, says Tom.

With baseboard heat, a plumber can drain the system and shorten the horizontal pipe that runs through the radiator, thereby relieving the pressure point where the pipe comes up through—and rubs against—the floor. If the radiator itself clicks, the fins are rubbing against each other or the floor, the cover, or the baseboard molding. Remove the cover and lift

the fins onto the brackets designed to hold them. If the brackets are missing or broken, place folded-up cardboard where the fins touch the floor.

25 WHIRLING CEILING FAN

Ceiling fans can get loud when their blades become unbalanced or loose.

THE FIX: Turn off the circuit breaker and measure the distance from one blade to the ceiling, then manually rotate the fan and measure each blade against the same spot on the ceiling. If the measurements aren't identical, gently bend into alignment the metal bracket to which the blade is attached. "You can't move it a lot," says Tom. "But there's always enough play to rebalance it and quiet the fan down."

26 SPRINKLER WAKE-UP CALL

That hiss you hear when an automatic lawn watering system starts up is air that leaked inside the pipes and is getting pushed out of the nozzle opening of the water.

THE FIX: Forget about quaring the meticulously change your watering time around. Early morning is ideal, but nobody said you have to use the standard 5 a.m. setting. So the easier for just put the hose your family usually gets up.

27 RUNNING TOILET

Your toilet flushes fine, but it doesn't know when to quit and is wasting gallons of water a day.

THE FIX: Most often it's a simple fix. Turn off the water at the shut-off valve on the wall behind the toilet. Lift off the tank cover and remove the rubber flapper from the flush valve inside the tank. Replace the flapper if it's damaged or discolored. Check that the float on the chain is at the water height as the water level adjusts if necessary. Whether or not you replaced the flapper, make sure it's creating a watertight seal. ●



half baths full of style



The powder room is one of the busiest rooms in the house, especially this time of year. So why not make yours more welcoming? Read on for easy style upgrades, clever storage solutions, and one-step fixes to perk up your half bath before company comes.

by Kate Karam



pattern play

There are four excellent reasons to use wallpaper in a powder room," says Jane Coatsick, an interior designer based in Savannah, Georgia. Without a steamy shower, there's no worry about peeling paper. Continuous patterns—like the eye-catching blue-and-white print here—have the effect of making corners disappear, so small spaces feel more expansive. And you don't need much material, so you can spring for the good stuff. Best reason of all? "The wow factor when you open the door," says Coatsick. Shown: Rosalyn wallpaper (walla). \$225 for a 50-square-foot roll; us.farrow-ball.com.



repurposed character

Turn a flea-market table or a discarded dresser into a unique bath vanity (see how at thisoldhouse.com/node/2014). Here, a vintage table becomes an unexpected base for an irregular vessel sink, and other distressed elements include the weathered medicine cabinet and salvaged door. Subway tile, marble, and a single-stem faucet mix in for a rustic-meets-sleek look. A powder room is a great place to showcase your style with something fun, whimsical, or offbeat," says Birmingham, Alabama-based designer Lindsay Ellis Bratty. Similar to shown: \$1,000; signatureshardware.com.



deep thinking

"People worry about using a dark color in a tiny room," says Rita Wilkins, a designer in Avondale, Pennsylvania. "But a coat of white paint isn't going to change the fact that it's small—you might as well embrace it!" Consider a deep, like the one here, or an equally intense burnt-umami plum, dark gray, or chocolate brown. "These shades can make the room rich, luminous, and cozy all at once," says Wilkins. To get the right depth of color, she advises prepping with a tinted primer, following with at least three coats of paint. "If you don't love it," she says, "it's not much wall to repaint." Similar to shown: Valspar's Front Door Red, \$34 (per gallon); lowes.com.

upscaled elements

Often among the last areas to be revamped, powder rooms can suffer from "boulder-bank syndrome," with home-center cabinets and minimal mirrors. Go from standard to striking by adding one oversized element, such as a huge mirror, as shown here. "You can use scale and proportion to create the illusion of a higher ceiling and improve the proportions of a small room," says Wilkins. A powder-room mirror typically measures two-thirds the width of the vanity and two-thirds the height from sink top to ceiling. To wow, go up proportionately in thirds, such as a 36-by-48-inch mirror over a 36-inch-wide vanity. Similar to shown: Sae Mexico mirror, \$260; wayfair.com.



stylish storage

Got 15 minutes? An afternoon? A weekend? Here, three easy ways to boost stowaway space



Baskets Company's on the way? If minutes you can install a wall of baskets so that guests never run out of TP. Similar to shown: Rachel's basket, \$12; workmarket.com.



Floating shelves Plain planks with hidden hardware offer sleek, low-profile display and storage space. Similar to shown: Home Decorators' Collection; from \$22; homedepot.com.



Built-in niche In a half bath with little elbow room, a recessed cubby is an ideal solution. Get the basics for creating space between wall studs at thisoldhouse.com/node/2034.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SIGNATURE HARDWARE, BASKETS COMPANY, HOME DECORATORS' COLLECTION, AND THIS OLD HOUSE. STYLING: LINDA WILKINS. HAIR: JESSICA WILKINS. MAKEUP: JESSICA WILKINS. PROP STYLING: JESSICA WILKINS.



standout sink

A fun, unusual shape, size, or material can make a sink special enough for guests but ideal for family use, too. An extra-deep utility basin, such as this one, which is set into a handsome wood base, is super-functional when the powder room is also hand-washing central for kids. In fact, the twin faucets make it doubly so. Just don't neglect to put in high-quality fittings. "Too often people install a cheap faucet, figuring, 'It's just the powder room,'" says Rich Holben, an architectural designer based in New Marlborough, Massachusetts. "But in a busy household that sink can get a lot of use." Similar to show: Harborview sink, \$2,900; es.kohler.com

lighting done right

While powder room glazing is likely limited to hand-washing and a quick wipe with the comb, flattering light is critical to making guests feel comfortable. Task lighting in the bath shouldn't come from overhead, as it casts unflattering shadows. The better option, according to Holben, is to create a cluster of lighting, with overall ambient illumination coming from a small chandelier, pendant, or flush-mounted fixture on the ceiling and task lighting provided by a pair of dimmable wall sconces set at eye level on either side of the mirror. Similar to show: Adèle chandelier, \$560; potterybarn.com; Wilcox Globe sconce, \$70 each; amazon.com



STYLING: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; SINK: KAHLE; MIRROR: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; SCONCES: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; CHANDIELIER: JEFFREY M. HARRIS



textural touches

The trick to making a primarily white half bath spa-like, rather than lab-lin is mixing and layering textures, says Costick. Budget-friendly white ceramic subway tiles are easy to install (and to clean) and leave a space feeling sparklingly bright. Adding detailed millwork and a splash of cheery color—like the wood frame medicine cabinet and green-painted beadboard here—are sure ways to warm it up. Similar to show: Peerington oversize sink with polished nickel stand, \$700; signaturehardware.com

worthy extras

You know the basics every powder room needs. Here are the little upgrades that designers rely on to up the luxe factor.

1. Handsome hardware With just a screwdriver and a few new knobs, you can instantly update and revitalize. Knobs, \$9–\$12; rejuvenation.com



2. Soft-close seat Save guests (and yourself) from the unnecessary sound of a slamming lid. Q3 Quiet-Close toilet seat, \$60; kohler.com



3. Wall art Seek affordable prints with graphic punch or create a custom piece from a cell-phone snap. WPA poster print from \$15; vintagegraph.com. Canvas prints of your own photos from \$35; allposters.com

4. Special hand towels Even intimate space guests are going to notice details, such as nice towels. Look for Egyptian-cotton or ones with embroidery or Irish Motown Clean towel, \$23; gracelashome.com

5. Cuddly rug A plush textile underfoot can soften a powder room's hard surfaces. One with a distinctly horizontal or vertical pattern can trick the eye and make a space feel longer or wider. 2 ft by 3 ft rug, \$83 (left) and \$95; dshandlbert.com





DOWNTON ABBEY

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Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

INSIDE
POCKET-DOOR FIX / SHRUB SHELTER
/ CEILING UPLIFT / RADIANT BASICS

36
tips, tricks, and
answers to
your home-
improvement
questions

Q
What can I do with all
the wood yardsticks
I've collected?

—EMILY BRUNER, DOW CITY, IOWA

A
You could arrange them into a wall decoration.
Or turn a pair into a pinch stick for taking precise
inside measurements. To see if a cabinet
assembly is square, for example, lay your
yardsticks face-to-face, and slide the ends into the
cabinet's diagonally opposite corners. Now pinch
or tape them together where they overlap, and
tuck them into the cabinet's other corners. If your
pinch stick touches them, the cabinet is square.
—TOMMYEVE, TON GENERAL CONTRACTOR

PHOTOGRAPH
BY WENDALL T. WENGER

Our panel of veteran experts



TOM SILVA
General Contractor



NORM ABRAM
Master Carpenter



RICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating Expert



ROGER COOK
Landscape Contractor



KEVIN O'CONNOR
Fence

A pocket door in our 46-year-old Cape has come off its track and is now resting inside the wall. What can I do to get it working again? —JAY BRIDGES DAYTON, OHIO



When a pocket door doesn't work properly, Norm Abram gives off one of the most pieces behind the head casing. Then he can peer up into the pocket and check out the door's rollers and track.

NORM ABRAM REPLIES: Pocket doors in newer houses like yours are fairly easy to fix. They hang from two sets of rollers that ride on a metal track extending from the pocket into the wall to the opposite side of the doorway. Pocket doors don't roll along the floor, once used in really old houses, are harder to put right.

In order to access the track and rollers, you'll have to remove the split headers—horizontal strips inside the head casings that trap the top of the door when it's closed. Use a utility knife to break the paint bond between the strips inside the casings, then sawcut or pry off the strips, as I'm doing here. Using a flashlight, peek inside the pocket and see how many wheels each roller has—two, three, or four. That will determine how the door can be removed.

To get a stuck door out of its pocket, fit the hooked end of a small pry bar under the door's bottom edge and push down on the bar. This will lift the door up and out of the opening just enough so you can grab it. But first, tape down some cardboard to protect the floor.

It may be possible now to put the wheel back on the track. Otherwise, drag the door out of the pocket as far as you can. If the door has two-wheel rollers, which ride in a C-shaped track, pry off one of the split side joints that cover the pocket. Now

you can grab the door, lift it off the track, and take it out. For doors with three- or four-wheel rollers, loosen the joints along, and disengage the lower holding track roller in the top of the door. Lift the door off the rollers, and slide them out of the gap at the end of the track.

Carefully inspect the track and the rollers. If they're in good condition, clean them, lubricate the wheels, check that all the fasteners are tight, and rehanging the door. But back the split headers and the split joints, if necessary. If a wheel is damaged, replace the roller assembly with a matching one. A Web search should turn up replacements. But if the track is damaged, you'll have to cut open a section in the pocket wall just below the track, detach the old track, and put in a new one.

This might be a good opportunity to upgrade the track and the rollers, if the pocket is wide enough to accommodate them. In my experience, pocket doors with three- and four-wheel rollers have sturdier tracks and aren't as prone to come in those with two-wheel rollers.

New trends for carpeted stairs
I want to tear out the carpet on the stairway and cover the construction grade treads and risers with nice wood. Is this something I can do?
—MARIE ALISTIN WOODSTOCK, IL

TOM SILVA REPLIES: You can certainly tear out the carpeting yourself. Using a hammer and a pry bar, lift the carpet and pad off the staples and tack strips that are holding them in place, then pull all any of the strips or staples left behind.

A number of companies, such as NuStair (nustair.com), do offer



What is it?

- Light switch
- Float switch
- Shut fender
- Door knocker

THE RIGHT ANSWER IS

replacement treads and risers for just your situation. You can choose species like oak or Brazilian cherry, finished or unfinished, for either open or closed stairways. Treads that come with the treads and cover molding already attached will save installation time. Most replacements are French cleat, though you'll probably need a 1/4-inch-thick landing tread at the top of the stair to fit flush with your existing flooring.

Installing these treads is not a job for a beginner. You'll need a table saw, a pneumatic nailer, a chisel, compound miter saw that makes dead-straight cuts, and a fair amount of carpentry experience. If you don't have the tools and the experience, I'd recommend letting a professional trim carpenter tackle this job.

Protecting shrubs from snow

Last winter, heavy wet snow damaged the shrubs in my front yard. How I can avoid that problem this year?

—BENJAMIN GUTHRIE SLEN BURNING

ROGER COOK REPLIES: There are two ways to protect shrubs. To shovel up or cover them up. To fix, just



Wrapping twice around shrubs in the fall will keep their branches safe from snow.

wrap a spiral of three-strand jute twine around the plant, starting from the bottom and working upward. Wrap up the twine enough to pull the limbs into a conical shape but not so tight as to crush them. This shape helps them to shed snow and prevents any single limb from having to carry a snow load.

Until the event in the spring as soon as the threat of snow has passed. Your shrubs will return to their normal shape as the weather warms up.

However, some winged myriophytes are enough to protect plants close to the house from the snow and wind that drop off the roof. In those locations, cover your plants with single wood A-frames. They are easy to build. Get a couple of 1/2-inch exterior-grade plywood panels enough to shield a shrub on two sides, put one style, and screw 2x4s along the side edges. Line up the ends of the 2x4s with the panel's top edges, but let them extend several inches past the panels' lower edges to form short legs. Hold the two sides together at the top with metal straps or old door hinges. Then you can shove them up like a book and use them again next year after snow.

To prevent the frame from toppling or shifting when it gets hit by

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

What is it?

Stud finder

When the Stud Peer's powerful magnetism magnet detects a hidden corner or stud in a wall—whether it's left or right—this tool's indicator lights up to alert you, making a peeping noise. \$10. Chicago area.



snail-escape off the roof, anchor the legs to wood studs. A coat of paint will extend the life of the little streamer.

Leave the ends of the A-frame open so air can circulate and some rain can reach the shrub. And as with the tent, remove the frames as soon as severe winds are over.

Seasonal ceiling gap

The crown molding that we installed in the second floor of our 1980s house leaked perfect until it separated from the ceiling as the winter. We caulked it and it looked fine—until the next winter, when the same thing happened again. What can we do to stop this?

—UNIDENTIFIED COLUMBIAN 010

TOM SILVER REPURPOSES It sounds like you're having a problem with uplift caused by the seasonal movement of roof trusses.

If you go into your attic, the roof will be made of 2x6s connected with metal plates. These lightweight roof trusses are fairly common in houses built in the 1980s and are still widely used. Unlike traditional rafters, which carry only the weight of the roof, trusses support both the roof and the ceiling below it. As a result, when the 2x6s dry out and shrink during the winter, they pull up slightly on the bottom part of the truss—the bottom chord—and the ceiling drywall detaches itself.

There's no way you're going to stop

those chords from moving. But you can stabilize the ceiling somewhat. Measure the distance between the bottom chords—24 inches is standard spacing—and cut some 1/2-inch plywood into 12-inch-wide strips (much shorter of that distance). Take these strips along the attic and screw them to the top plate of the wall in walls that run perpendicular to the chords near the center of the house. That's where chond movement is most pronounced. The overhanging lip of the plywood strip runs against the drywall ceiling and keeps it from kinking.

And for simple planning to install crown molding in a ceiling, fastened to a roof truss, here's a tip. Nail the crown only to the ceiling, not the wall. That way the crown will slide up and down the wall as the ceiling moves, and you'll never see a gap or a crack open up.

Cutting in question

How do you paint a crisp boundary between the walls and the ceiling when they are different colors?

—STEVENSON WEST MILFORD, NJ

KEVIN GOSCHER REPLIES To find out what the pros do, I asked Rich O'Neil, owner of Masterwork Painting, who has shared his expertise on Ask This Old House TV, to explain his technique.

"It's a lot of like that you have to cut in—paint a boundary along edges of a

wall before using a roller. But when cutting in next to a different paint color or sheen, you have to take extra care because a waxy sealer often fills along this edge wall be autogap obvious. I don't bother with tape, a brush is faster. My favorite is a 2½- or 3-inch-wide angled sash brush with fairly soft bristles, which are better than soft brushes at making straight lines.

"The technique I use requires three passes. After you dip the brushes in the ½ inch into the paint and tap them against the side of the peak, hold the brush parallel to the ceiling and apply a generous coat of paint about ½ to ¾ inch away from and parallel to the ceiling. This makes a narrow range about 2 to 4 feet long before the brush runs dry.

"On the second pass, without reloading the brush, keep all the brush tips up to the ceiling, angle the handle about 45 degrees from the ceiling, then glide the brush over the paint applied in the first pass. Keep your attention focused on the brush tips, and let the brush smoothly off the wall as the end of the stroke. Don't go back and fill with the paint; you're likely to mess up your line.

"On the third pass, smooth out the heavy paint on the edge opposite the ceiling. Sometimes I'll use a lightly loaded 4-inch mini roller for that step, to smooth the paint on the rest of the wall. Repeat the same steps for the next ceiling-to-wall stroke, but on the second pass, blend the cut-in by brushing back slightly onto the wet paint left by the first stroke. Continue in this way around the rest of the room."

Radiant retrofit

We'd like to install hot-water radiant heat under wood floors that are accessible from the basement. What factors do we need to consider?

—JOHN EDEGER, CHENLAND PARK, N.J.

RICHARD TIERNEY REPLIES Financial constraints are the question of the moment. So let me tell you what I look for when assessing whether radiant is worthwhile.

For starters, it's good to know you have a basement—installing the tubing will be much easier there than in a crawl space—and that you have wood floors. A carpet and pad would effectively block the heat flow from below.

Next, I'd like to know how your floors were constructed, to gauge their insulation value. For instance, a typical 14-inch solid hardwood over ¾-inch plywood has an R-value of about 1.6. That floor needs at least R-2.4 insulation under the tubing—30 percent more than the floor's R-value—so that the radiant heat moves up through the floor and not down into the basement. In practice, I'd add more insulation than that. You really can't get enough down there.

Third, I'd try to get a sense of how dirty the house is during the heating season. Air filtration and moving air are a radiant's worst enemies because they disturb the warm layer that forms near the floor. If you have chilly breezes wafting through the house on cold nights, focus your attention on sealing and insulating the attic, adding weatherstripping and doors to your doors and windows, and foaming or caulking any gaps or holes in the exterior walls. Taking these steps will ensure that your radiant system will deliver the comfort and energy savings you're looking for.

One final consideration: You'll need an experienced radiant heating contractor in your area who can design, install, finance, and maintain your system. That person is essential if you're going to enjoy all the benefits that radiant has to offer. ■

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THE HISTORY When Charles B. Aycock bought this gracious four-square around 1900, he already had his sights set on an even grander house—the governor's mansion, in Raleigh. Aycock later became the state's first elected governor, a position he resigned to improve public education. Aycock didn't disappoint. All his modifications were staggering: 600 textbooks had been built. He started home and lived here with his wife, Cass, and their 10 children, while practicing law in his office downtown. The home stayed in the family for years and has had numerous owners since. Preservation North Carolina is now looking to secure a new owner to restore the house in accordance with historic guidelines.

WHY SAVE IT? The 4,846-square-foot house has an elaborate front porch graced with square columns and turned balusters. Many of the windows are fitted with leaded glass. The interior holds a central ambulatory staircase and eight fireplaces.

WHAT IT NEEDS Though the framing is in good shape, the foundation will need significant repairs. Preservation North Carolina has stripped the plaster from interior walls in order to expedite a new owner's overhaul of the electrical, plumbing, and heating systems. The house is eligible for historic preservation tax credits, making the task a little more manageable. Whoever takes on the restoration will have a big job but will also be the proud owner of a home befitting a governor with a lasting legacy.—HALL GARDNER



1) The sprawling six bedrooms, four bath house sits on a half-acre lot near the center of town. 2) The detailed front entry door contains its original transoms and side lights. 3) A number of original windows and transoms remain, many embellished with leaded glass. 4) This single room structure once housed Charles Aycock's law practice. It has been moved behind the main house and is isolated in the side.



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